

April 14, 2025

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VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6250

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

Re: Response to April 6, 2025 Letter and April 10, 2025 Email to Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Dear Ranking Members Blumenthal & Raskin:

I write in response to your letter to Thomas M. Cerabino, Chairman of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP ("Willkie" or the "Firm"), dated April 6, 2025, and Jennifer Gaspar's email to Mr. Cerabino, dated April 10, 2025 (together, the "Letter"). Willkie has engaged O'Melveny & Myers LLP to represent the Firm in connection with the inquiry described in your Letter and our client has asked us to respond on its behalf. Please direct all future correspondence and communications to my attention or the attention of my partner, Amanda Santella.

The Letter asks that Willkie provide you with an explanation of the Firm's decision to enter into an agreement with the Trump Administration ("Administration") to avoid issuance of an Executive Order regarding the Firm. The Letter expresses the view that the Administration's use of executive orders to target certain law firms is intended as an effort to chill the legal profession from advocating for clients and causes that the Administration opposes. The Letter goes on to suggest that the agreement with the Administration will require the Firm to abandon core legal and professional values. I write to assure you that this is not the case. Our client appreciates the opportunity to dispel certain misconceptions about the agreement Willkie reached with the Administration.

At the outset, it is important to emphasize that the agreement our client reached with the Administration is consistent with Willkie's practices and core values, including client service and serving as a steward for the Firm's employees, its clients, and the broader community. Those commitments are reflected in Willkie's history of advocating for the interests of its clients and providing *pro bono* legal services to a broad range of underserved individuals, communities, and

organizations. Nothing about the agreement with the Administration alters those Firm practices, values, and principles.

With respect to your specific inquiry, Willkie received outreach from the Administration in late March regarding the potential issuance of an Executive Order regarding the Firm and began discussions with the Administration about a potential alternative resolution. The Firm's leadership gave careful consideration to the implications of each possible course of action and ultimately determined that offering a proposed resolution to the Administration would best serve the interests of its clients, employees, and other Firm stakeholders. Willkie's decision to engage in discussions with, make a proposal to, and ultimately reach an agreement with, the Administration was guided by three longstanding core principles at the Firm: First, Willkie will continue to follow the law related to its employment practices. Second, Willkie will continue to represent clients on both sides of the aisle and with a wide range of ideological views. Third, Willkie will continue to devote time and resources to its *pro bono* representations of underserved individuals and communities in areas that are important to the Firm and to the Administration, including representations of veterans, Gold Star families, and victims of religious discrimination.

We wish to emphasize today, as Willkie did after the agreement was first publicly disclosed, that nothing in the agreement will require our client to change course with respect to its values or its operations. The agreement is also consistent with the Firm's commitment to client service—as it avoids the very serious consequences that an Executive Order could cause the Firm's clients—and with Willkie's commitment to best preserve the enterprise for the benefit of its over 2,100 attorneys and staff, as well as the communities the Firm serves.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address these issues on behalf of my client.

Very truly yours,



K. Lee Blalack II
of O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP

KB

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. House of Representatives
Jennifer Gaspar, Esq.
Minority Staff Director, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, U.S. Senate
Amanda Santella, Esq.
O'Melveny & Myers LLP