

April 17, 2023

Dara Lindenbaum
Chair
Federal Election Commission

Sean J. Cooksey
Vice Chairman
Federal Election Commission

Shana M. Broussard
Commissioner
Federal Election Commission

Allen Dickerson
Commissioner
Federal Election Commission

James E. Trainor III
Commissioner
Federal Election Commission

Ellen L. Weintraub
Commissioner
Federal Election Commission

Dear Commissioners:

On March 28, 2023, the O’Keefe Media Group posted a video online alleging that political donations are being made in large amounts to certain political groups without the donors’ knowledge.^[1] The claims in the video were apparently based on public Federal Election Commission (FEC) data that displays donor information, including the amount of money individuals have donated to certain political groups.^[2] On March 29, 2023, my staff emailed the FEC’s legislative affairs office to request a briefing regarding FEC’s awareness of the information presented in the video and to discuss what, if any, action the FEC has taken, is taking, or will take to address the allegations raised in the video.

The FEC initially offered to brief my staff about the video, however, after my staff confirmed a date and time for the briefing, the FEC informed my office that it was no longer willing to provide the requested briefing. In addition, on April 10, 2023, the FEC stated that

^[1] O’Keefe Media Group Uncovers Potential Massive Money Laundering into Political Campaigns, YouTube, Mar. 28, 2023, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnKCPK_OACc.

^[2] *Id.*

it would provide my office a letter the following day explaining why it will not provide a briefing. By April 12, 2023, my office had not received the FEC's letter and so my staff asked for a status update. The FEC's legislative affairs office told my staff that the FEC is still working on its response and it is unclear when it will provide the letter to my office.

I am disappointed that the FEC is refusing to provide transparency about its awareness of potential misconduct regarding political donations. It is important for the FEC to be forthcoming with Congress and the public in order to maintain confidence in the FEC's abilities to address potential wrongdoing. With this in mind, I request the FEC provide a full explanation related to the allegations contained in the March 28, 2023 video.

Sincerely,

Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

Mr. Christopher Skinner
Inspector General
Federal Election Commission