

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 21, 2025

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

I write to request that you require each Special Government Employee (SGE) to sign a certification that the SGE understands and agrees that no SGE may ever use non-public information from the federal government for their own personal benefit, especially after leaving government service.

I make this request because there have been numerous reports of SGEs accessing some of the U.S. government's most sensitive information, including but not limited to data from the Social Security Administration, the Department of the Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Office of Personnel Management and Departments of Commerce, Education, Energy, Labor, Health and Human Services and Transportation. Recently, there were reports that the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and government agencies are dismantling the traditional safeguards used to secure government data in the name of combining these data in a single massive trove.¹

Given the unprecedented nature of the access DOGE SGEs have had to vast swathes of some of the most sensitive U.S. government data, I am very concerned that SGEs, many of whom come from the tech field, may return to the private sector and use nonpublic information from the federal government to give their personal business activities an unfair and anticompetitive boost. Indeed, one of your former advisors, Steve Bannon, shares my concern. According to a recent report:

“Bannon also said he wants a letter of certification showing that no one has taken any data from the Trump administration or government, to which *Semafor*'s editor-in-chief Ben Smith asked, ‘Sounds like you don’t trust [Musk] not to take data?’ ‘Trust, but verify,’ Bannon responded.”²

I agree, and I ask that you put in place a process to require each SGE to sign a certification prior to leaving government service indicating that they understand and agree that they are never allowed to use nonpublic information for their personal benefit and that they cannot take any such data with them.

Thank you for your consideration.



United States Senator

¹ Hannah Natanson, Joseph Menn, Lisa Rein and Rachel Siegel “DOGE aims to pool federal data, putting personal information at risk,” *The Washington Post*, May 7, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/05/07/doge-government-data-immigration-social-security/>.

² “Steve Bannon says Elon Musk should provide ‘specific accounting’ of fraud uncovered by DOGE,” *Semafor*, April 23, 2025, <https://www.semafor.com/article/04/23/2025/steve-bannon-wants-elon-musk-to-provide-specific-accounting-of-government-fraud-uncovered-by-doge>.