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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

February 5, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Madhu Gottumukkala
Acting Director
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Dear Acting Director Gottumukkala:

On January 27, 2026, *Politico* reported that you, while serving as the Acting Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), “uploaded sensitive contracting documents into a public version of ChatGPT last summer.”¹ Reporting also indicates that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) conducted an internal review to investigate what, if any, exposures to government security and information had taken place, and that as part of that review, you “spoke with senior officials at DHS to review what [you] uploaded to ChatGPT.”² According to CISA, you were granted access to use the public version of the artificial intelligence (AI) tool, which was supposed to be “short-term and limited.”³

As you may be aware, I’ve previously raised concerns about the need to protect our nation’s cybersecurity.⁴ For instance, on April 8, 2024, I wrote letters to seven of the Sector Risk Management Agencies responsible for overseeing our nation’s critical infrastructure to highlight the threat of cyberattacks on our critical infrastructure sectors.⁵ I also wrote to CISA on July 3, 2024, and March 11, 2025, regarding a cyberattack, which released “critical information about the operation of U.S. infrastructure.”⁶

¹ John Sakellariadis, *Exclusive Trump’s acting cyber chief uploaded sensitive files into a public version of ChatGPT* (Jan. 27, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/27/cisa-madhu-gottumukkala-chatgpt-00749361>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, to the Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, the Honorable Jen Easterly, Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and Mr. Ronald R. Rowe, Acting Director, United States Secret Service (Nov. 1, 2024), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_cisa_-_cyberattack.pdf; Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, to the Honorable Merrick Garland, Attorney General, Department of Justice, and the Honorable Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Nov. 1, 2024), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_doj_and_fbi_-_salt_typhoon_cyberattack.pdf; Press Release, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Conducts Sweeping Oversight of Recent AT&T Hack, Potential National Security Implications* (Aug. 5, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-conducts-sweeping-oversight-of-recent-atandt-hack-potential-national-security-implications>; Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, to the Honorable Jen Easterly, Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (July 3, 2024), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_cisa_-_cyberattack.pdf; see also Press Release, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley: Federal Agencies Must Stop ‘Dragging Their Feet’ On Bolstering Cybersecurity Defense* (Apr. 8, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-federal-agencies-must-stop-dragging-their-feet-on-bolstering-cybersecurity-defense>.

⁵ Press Release, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley: Federal Agencies Must Stop ‘Dragging Their Feet’ On Bolstering Cybersecurity Defense* (Apr. 8, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-federal-agencies-must-stop-dragging-their-feet-on-bolstering-cybersecurity-defense>.

⁶ Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, to the Honorable Jen Easterly, Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (July 3, 2024), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_cisa_-_cyberattack.pdf; Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, to Ms. Bridget Bean, Executive Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (Mar. 11, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_cisa_-_csat_hack_follow_up.pdf.

As such, given that CISA is the agency charged with overseeing U.S. cybersecurity, it's imperative that taking the necessary steps to protect sensitive information and our nation's cybersecurity starts at the top. Accordingly, please respond to the following no later than February 19, 2026:

1. Are the allegations raised in the *Politico* reporting accurate? Please address each allegation and their accuracy or lack thereof.
2. What was the rationale for you to seek and obtain permission to use the public version of ChatGPT? Provide all records, including records related to the basis for the approval to use ChatGPT.⁷
3. What was the "short-term and limited" scope of your use of ChatGPT? What was the actual scope? Provide all records.
4. Were you provided any guidance regarding the scope of your use of ChatGPT? If so, provide all records including any guidance, policy, or scoping documents.
5. Provide a copy and list of all documents you uploaded to the public version of ChatGPT.
6. Provide an unredacted copy of the review and associated findings of the investigation.
7. Has any attempt been made to contact OpenAI in regard to removing the documents from their platform? If not, why not?
8. Have you continued, and do you plan to continue, using the public version of ChatGPT to conduct official government business? If yes, please explain.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Tucker Akin on my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

⁷ "Records" include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether they resulted in final documents).