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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

February 14, 2025

## VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
 Secretary  
 Department of State

Dear Secretary Rubio:

On June 17, 2024, Senator Johnson and I sent the State Department a letter requesting records of then-Secretary of State John Kerry's use of non-government and pseudonymous government email accounts for official business.<sup>1</sup> Our letter cited legally-protected whistleblower disclosures that confirmed then-Secretary Kerry used the "SESTravel1@state.gov" email for official communications.<sup>2</sup> On September 6, 2024, the State Department's reply letter failed to adequately respond to five of our seven questions.<sup>3</sup>

Of those five, State completely failed to respond to four of them. Namely, concerning questions 2, 5, 6, and 7, State failed to provide any answers or requested records.<sup>4</sup>

Concerning question 4 in the June 17 letter, we asked whether "all FOIA requests properly included the email address 'SESTravel1@state.gov' in responses."<sup>5</sup> State wrote that SESTravel1@state.gov "is associated with former Secretary Kerry in the eRecords Archive" and that "a search of the Department's eRecords Archive in response to a FOIA request seeking records sent to/from former Secretary Kerry would include the email address 'SESTravel1@state.gov'."<sup>6</sup> However, State failed to answer our specific question of whether all FOIA responses related to Secretary Kerry did in fact include the email address, not only whether the email address would appear in a search. Please clarify whether this is the case.

So that Congress may conduct an independent review, provide full and complete responses to the following questions from the initial letter no later than February 28, 2025.

1. Provide all records from, to, or cc'ing the email address "SESTravel1@state.gov."

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, and Senator Ron Johnson, Ranking Member, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to Antony Blinken, Secretary, U.S. Department of State, (June 17, 2024), [https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley\\_johnson\\_to\\_state\\_-\\_kerry\\_emails.pdf](https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_johnson_to_state_-_kerry_emails.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* State confirmed in its response that "[t]he email address 'SESTravel1@state.gov' was used by then-Secretary Kerry during his tenure as Secretary of State." Letter from Philip G. Laidlaw, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State, to Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, (Sep. 6, 2024), (on file with Comm. Staff).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Letter from Philip G. Laidlaw, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State, to Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, (Sep. 6, 2024), (on file with Comm. Staff).

2. Have all FOIA requests properly included the email address "SESTravel1@state.gov" in responses?
3. Did then-Secretary Kerry only use the "SESTravel1@state.gov" address for official business during his time as Secretary of State? If not, provide the other email addresses that were used, to include personal email. Provide all records.
4. Was the email address "SESTravel1@state.gov" used to communicate with foreign government officials? If so, did any information include classified information? Provide all records.
5. Was the email address "SESTravel1@state.gov" used to communicate information relating to the Iran Nuclear Deal? If so, was any information classified? Provide all records.

Thank you for your prompt review and responses. If you have any questions, please contact Jace Pimentel and Brian Randolph on my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary