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WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4707**

March 10, 2021

The Honorable Theodore E. Deutch  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ethics  
1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jackie Walorski  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ethics  
1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Deutch and Ranking Member Walorski:

I respectfully request the Committee on Ethics launch an investigation into Representative Lauren Boebert (CO-03) for her involvement in instigating and aiding the violent riot at the Capitol Building on January 6, 2021.

On January 6, 2021, a mob of insurrectionists forcefully breached the Capitol Building, breaking windows and pounding down doors. At that same moment, Members of Congress and staff were confirming the results of the 2020 Presidential election. The violent insurgency forced Congress to adjourn and Members to shelter in place. The riot resulted in the deaths of five people, including Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick.

Representative Boebert endangered fellow Members' lives and pursued a disinformation campaign related to the election results that resulted in an armed uprising.

1. The morning of January 6 at 8:30 AM, she tweeted "Today is 1776."<sup>1</sup> This same phrase was used by the insurrectionists who forcibly entered the U.S. Capitol later that day.

At 4:57 PM on January 6, she tweeted a photo of her signing what appears to be an electoral college vote challenge with the caption, "1776 is the foundation of our country. Today I signed my name to a document to defend that foundation and our freedom. The violence we saw today was inexcusable. Pray for America."<sup>2</sup>

2. Five minutes after insurrectionists first breached the Capitol, Representative Boebert tweeted from inside the House chamber, "We were locked in the House Chambers" at 2:17 PM.<sup>3</sup> She then tweeted a minute later, "Speaker has been removed from the

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<sup>1</sup> Rep. Lauren Boebert (@laurenboebert) Twitter, (Jan. 6, 2021) 8:30 AM.

<sup>2</sup> Rep. Lauren Boebert (@laurenboebert) Twitter, (Jan. 6, 2021) 4:57 PM.

<sup>3</sup> Rep. Lauren Boebert (@laurenboebert) Twitter, (Jan. 6, 2021) 2:17 PM.

chambers.”<sup>4</sup> She was one of only two Members, the other being Representative Mo Brooks (AL-05), who tweeted the location of Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

3. On social media, she utilized language that encouraged violence in and around the Capitol. She tweeted on December 8, 2020, “I prefer to speak loudly and carry a Glock.”<sup>5</sup> In an ad released on January 3, 2021, she filmed herself walking around federal buildings with her gun and pledged to carry a handgun around the Capitol, despite D.C. laws banning open carry in the city.<sup>6</sup>
4. Representative Boebert has maintained close ties to known extremist groups present at the January 6 insurrection. In 2019, shortly after Representative Boebert launched her campaign, she posed for a photo at a pro-gun rally with local members of the Three Percenters, a militia group known for their pro-gun and anti-government views.<sup>7</sup> In photos of the January 6 attack, some participants are waving Three Percenter flags.<sup>8</sup> The Southern Poverty Law Center has categorized some of their members as dangerous “anti-government extremists.”<sup>9</sup> One of the individuals arrested for participating in the riot posted a photo in front of the restaurant Representative Boebert owns in Rifle, Colorado.<sup>10</sup>

Others have spoken out against Representative Boebert’s actions, including Republican Members of Congress.<sup>11</sup> A group of 60 elected officials from her home state of Colorado sent a letter to House leadership condemning Representative Boebert’s actions and asking Congress to investigate and seek any disciplinary actions.<sup>12</sup> Former Republican Colorado House Speaker Russ George has said that he believes she should be held responsible for her role in inciting the Capitol riot.<sup>13</sup> Representative Boebert has not apologized for her statements leading up to the January 6 riot and continued to claim that the election was stolen.

I am requesting this investigation pursuant to the House Ethics Rules. Rule 23, Clause 1 specifies that Members must conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects credibly on the

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<sup>4</sup> Rep. Lauren Boebert (@laurenboebert) Twitter, (Jan. 6, 2021) 2:18 PM.

<sup>5</sup> Rep. Lauren Boebert (@laurenboebert) Twitter, Dec. 8, 2020 6:52 AM.

<sup>6</sup> Rep. Lauren Boebert (@laurenboebert) Twitter, Jan. 3, 2021 7:33 PM.

<sup>7</sup> Matthew Mosk and Benjamin Siegel, *For GOP firebrand Rep. Lauren Boebert, anger and suspicion linger after Capitol riot*, ABC NEWS (Jan. 22, 2021) <https://abcnews.go.com/US/gop-firebrand-rep-lauren-boebert-anger-suspicion-linger/story?id=75404797>.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Juliegrace Brufke, *GOP lawmakers told Trump takes some responsibility for Capitol riot*, THE HILL (Jan. 11, 2021) <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/533754-gop-lawmakers-told-trump-takes-some-responsibility-for-capitol-riot>.

<sup>12</sup> Letter from 60 elected officials from the Western Colorado Region to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives; Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives & Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives re: Rep. Lauren Boebert (Jan. 12, 2021) <https://sci-prod-public-pdfs.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/bwM0MQiwueBvFEKS2doZhBjqOvw.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> Webb, Dennis, *Rifle Republican George: Boebert shares in blame for riot at Capitol*. THE DAILY SENTINEL. (Jan. 8, 2021) [https://www.gisentinel.com/news/western\\_colorado/rifle-republican-george-boebert-shares-in-blame-for-riot-at-capitol/article\\_d75e579e-504b-11eb-8c3c-fbefaf8d9b6e.html](https://www.gisentinel.com/news/western_colorado/rifle-republican-george-boebert-shares-in-blame-for-riot-at-capitol/article_d75e579e-504b-11eb-8c3c-fbefaf8d9b6e.html).

House. The Committee previously found Representative Matt Gaetz (FL-01) <sup>14</sup> in violation of Clause 1, illustrating adequate precedent for this investigation. I urge the Committee to also investigate whether Representative Boebert's conduct violates other applicable standards, provisions, or federal law statutes.

It is critical for the functioning of Congress—and therefore the functioning of our democracy—that this investigation is conducted. I urge the Committee to thoroughly investigate Representative Boebert's conduct and refer any appropriate findings to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

PRAMILA JAYAPAL  
Member of Congress

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<sup>14</sup> Comm. On Ethics. "In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Matt Gaetz," H. Rpt., 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2d Sess. 2 (2020) [https://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/documents/Appendix%20A\\_6.pdf](https://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/documents/Appendix%20A_6.pdf).