



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

December 31, 2020

Mr. Ted Kaufman
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Kaufman:

I am writing to correct several false statements that members of the Biden Transition Team (BTT) are continuing to make regarding the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) cooperation with your team. On November 23, 2020, the same day that the General Service Administration (GSA) provided ascertainment, OMB moved swiftly to apportion \$9.9 million for transition activities. Congress provides these funds for an incoming administration to hire a transition team, and also utilize volunteers. Any work to develop Biden Administration policies should be done by that team.

Since ascertainment, OMB has provided significant briefing materials on its operations, and has provided factual information about ongoing programs to the BTT upon request. We have taken more than 45 meetings with your staff to discuss specific issues, operational questions, and more. It is appropriate for OMB to share information about ongoing programs so the BTT can use it to develop its own policies. We have provided all information requested from OMB about ongoing programs.

To your specific criticisms with respect to COVID, as you are aware, your team has been briefed by OMB, as well as the relevant agencies, on Operation Warp Speed and other COVID-relief efforts, including the various funding streams in use for these efforts. Furthermore, there is record of your team accessing these critical documents just last week.

As the record shows, OMB has fully participated in appropriate transition efforts. What we have not done and will not do is use current OMB staff to write the BTT's legislative policy proposals to dismantle this Administration's work. OMB staff are working on this Administration's policies and will do so until this Administration's final day in office. Redirecting staff and resources to draft your team's budget proposals is not an OMB transition responsibility.

Our system of government has one President and one Administration at a time. OMB will not participate in developing policies that will weaken border security, dismantle the President's deregulatory successes, and draft budgets that will bankrupt America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Vought', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Russell T. Vought
Director

Identical Letter Sent to Jeffrey Zients