

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2024

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

The Honorable Robert P. Storch
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Defense
4800 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22350-1500

We write to express serious concerns about potential violations of U.S. law arising from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's recent visit to Pennsylvania and request a full investigation into the use of U.S. military assets and federal resources in relation to the visit.

As reported, President Zelensky visited Scranton, Pennsylvania, on Sunday to tour the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, a facility that produces military equipment for Ukraine. The Ukrainian President was accompanied exclusively by Democrats including Governor Josh Shapiro, Senator Bob Casey, and Representative Matt Cartwright, forty-two days before the election in the crucial swing state of Pennsylvania. Zelensky's visit and his comments criticizing the Trump-Vance ticket as "too radical," as well as arguing that under Vance, "America is headed for global conflict," smack of a Kamala Campaign stump speech. These actions have raised serious concerns among observers that the visit may have been politically motivated, potentially violating U.S. laws such as the Hatch Act, which prohibits federal employees from engaging in political activities while on duty or using government resources for such activities.

Additionally, it has come to our attention that President Zelensky may have flown into Pennsylvania on a U.S. Air Force C-17 military aircraft and was provided Secret Service protection, both of which involve the use of U.S. taxpayer funds. There is concern that these resources were used for purposes unrelated to U.S. national security or bilateral diplomacy but rather to support a politically significant visit ahead of a major U.S. election. If taxpayer dollars were used to facilitate this visit in a way that may violate federal laws or ethical guidelines, it is essential that Congress and the public receive a full accounting of those expenditures and the motivations behind the visit.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully request that the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General and the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General conduct an investigation into the following areas:

1. Provide a full accounting of the use of U.S. military aircraft, specifically the U.S. Air Force C-17, and Secret Service resources during President Zelensky's visit to Pennsylvania. This should include a detailed explanation of the justification for providing these resources, including how the visit aligns with U.S. national interests and security priorities.

2. Was any U.S. federal employee, elected official, or entity involved in arranging or facilitating President Zelensky's visit in a manner that may violate the Hatch Act or other relevant U.S. laws prohibiting the use of government resources for political purposes?
3. Please provide an accounting of all U.S. taxpayer funds used in connection with President Zelensky's travel to Pennsylvania, including the cost of his transportation and security.
4. Review whether there was any direct or indirect coordination between President Zelensky's visit and any U.S. political campaigns, specifically in Pennsylvania, given that several high-profile elected officials who are currently campaigning for re-election were involved in the visit. Additionally, were any Republican elected officials representing the state of Pennsylvania invited to attend the event?

To ensure transparency and accountability, we request that both agency OIGs take steps to preserve all documents, communications, and records related to President Zelensky's visit to Pennsylvania. This should include internal communications from the Department of Defense, the State Department, the White House, the Secret Service, and any other federal agencies involved in organizing or facilitating the visit.

This is a matter of both national security and public trust. The American people deserve to know how their taxpayer dollars are being spent and whether federal resources are being used appropriately. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



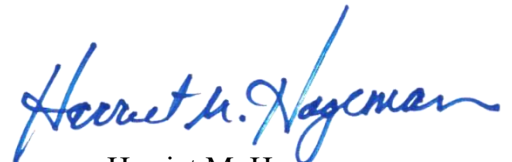
Clay Higgins
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Mary Miller
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Andy Biggs
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Dan Bishop
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