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CORY GARDNER, COLORADO  
MITT ROMNEY, UTAH  
LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA  
JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING  
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO  
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY  
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA  
TED CRUZ, TEXAS  
DAVID PERDUE, GEORGIA

ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY  
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND  
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE  
TOM UDALL, NEW MEXICO  
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, CONNECTICUT  
TIM Kaine, VIRGINIA  
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
JEFF MERKLEY, OREGON  
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

September 16, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pack  
Chief Executive Officer  
U.S. Agency for Global Media  
330 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20237

Dear Mr. Pack,

Thank you for your letter of July 23 to Chairman Risch and me warning us of “systemic, severe, and fundamental security failures” at USAGM.<sup>1</sup> These are serious allegations, but despite my repeated requests, you have yet to send the Committee any details about your investigation into USAGM’s operations and grantees. I encourage you to come testify before the Committee as soon as possible to update us on this matter.

I share your concern that all USAGM employees with access to sensitive or classified information undergo thorough background investigations and disclose all relevant and required information to the U.S. government. I write today to ensure that USAGM and the federal government are aware of two relevant cases.

First, according to Maryland court records, in February 2020 a judge issued a domestic violence protective order against Samuel Dewey, a lawyer at USAGM, who was reportedly hired to examine potential bias in USAGM’s news coverage.<sup>2</sup> Federal employees applying for a security clearance are required to disclose whether there is “currently a domestic violence protective order of restraining order issued against” them, as such information is relevant when considering an individual’s ability to handle classified material.<sup>3</sup>

Second, Diane Cullo, your Deputy Chief of Staff, previously filed a financial disclosure with the federal government that, when compared with other federal filings, raises questions about whether she fully and accurately disclosed liabilities and corporate roles.<sup>4</sup> In addition to ensuring

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from USAGM CEO Michael Pack to Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Menendez, July 23, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Case No. D-08-FM-20-808123, (Md., Baltimore County, Feb. 23, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Standard Form 86, Section 22.3 (Revised November 2016).

<sup>4</sup> Ms. Cullo filed a 278e financial disclosure for her position at the Department of Agriculture, which she started in early March 2017. Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e), New Entrant Report for Diane Cullo, signed July 5, 2017. In October 2016, she filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy. On her 278e, she reported “None” when asked to disclose non-mortgage and unsecured loan “liabilities over \$10,000 that the filer ... owed at any time during the reporting period” (in this case, from January 01, 2016 through April 07, 2017). *In re Cullo*, Case No. 16-13447-BFK, (Bankr. E.D. Va. 2016). However, in her bankruptcy proceeding, she declared that a creditor had an unsecured claim against her in excess of \$10,000. Furthermore, Cullo stated on her 278e that she was the “Principal” at *DLC Communications* and on her LinkedIn profile describes herself as the “Sole Proprietor” of the company. Yet, in her Chapter 13 filing, Cullo checked “No” when asked “Are you a sole proprietor of any full- or part-time business?”

full disclosure for ethics and conflict of interest purposes, federal employees applying for a security clearance must accurately disclose bankruptcy petitions for the last seven years.<sup>5</sup>

As Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, my oversight responsibilities include ensuring that USAGM is properly vetting its employees. To that end, please respond to the following questions no later than September 23, 2020.

1. Did Mr. Dewey disclose the domestic violence protective order against him to USAGM before he was hired?
2. Does Mr. Dewey's position at USAGM require him to apply for or hold a security clearance? If so, what is the status of any security clearance application by Mr. Dewey?
3. Did USAGM conduct any background investigations or checks before hiring Mr. Dewey?
4. Has Ms. Cullo filed any financial disclosures with USAGM? Has Ms. Cullo reviewed her prior filing with the Office of Government Ethics for accuracy, and does she intend to submit any corrections?
5. Does Ms. Cullo's position at USAGM require her to apply for or hold a security clearance? What is the status of any security clearance application by Ms. Cullo?

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez  
Ranking Member

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Standard Form 86, Section 26.1 (Revised November 2016).