



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2026

Andrew D. Herman
Founder
Law Office of Andrew D. Herman
1099 14th St, NW 8th Floor West
Washington, DC 20005

Mara Verheyden-Hilliard
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Partnership for Civil Justice Fund
617 Florida Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Herman and Ms. Verheyden-Hilliard:

This letter responds to the August 7, 2026, correspondence submitted by the Law Office of Andrew D. Herman and the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund (collectively, “Counsel”) on behalf of Breakthrough News.¹ It addresses certain objections raised by Counsel in that submission and reaffirms the Committee’s demand for production of the information required under the subpoena issued on July 21, 2026. Should the Committee’s demands remain unmet, the Committee will proceed with the issuance of additional subpoenas.

As previously explained, the Committee’s legislative purpose is to examine whether existing legal standards governing tax-exempt status adequately account for foreign influence and control. Since the 118th Congress, the Committee has marked up several bills related to foreign influence over the tax-exempt sector. On February 10, 2026, the Committee held a hearing titled *Foreign Influence in American Non-profits: Unmasking Threats from Beijing and Beyond* to focus on the rise of the Chinese Communist Party in America’s tax-exempt sector and examine how foreign actors are taking advantage of our non-profit system.²

¹ Letter from the Law Firm of Andrew D. Herman, PLLC, letter to The Hon. Jason Smith, Chairman, Comm. on Ways and Means (Aug. 7, 2026).

² H. Comm. On Ways and Means, Full Committee Hearing on Foreign Influence in American Non-profits: Unmasking Threats from Beijing and Beyond (Feb. 10, 2026), <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/event/full-committee-hearing-on-foreign-influence-in-american-non-profits-unmasking-threats-from-beijing-and-beyond/>.

On May 15, 2024, the Committee favorably reported H.R. 8290, the *Foreign Granting Reporting Act* to the House of Representatives.³ H.R. 8290 amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require the public disclosure of grants made by certain tax-exempt organizations to foreign entities.⁴ On May 15, 2024, the Committee favorably reported H.R. 8293, the *American Donor Privacy and Foreign Funding Transparency Act* to the House of Representatives.⁵ H.R. 8293 amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the public reporting of data on certain contributions received by tax-exempt organizations from foreign sources.⁶ On May 15, 2024, the Committee favorably reported H.R. 8314, the *No Foreign Election Interference Act* to the House of Representatives.⁷ H.R. 8314 amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose penalties with respect to contributions to political committees from certain tax-exempt organizations that receive contributions from foreign nationals.⁸ On July 22, 2026, the Committee favorably reported H.R. 9721, the *Fiscal Sponsorship Transparency Act of 2026* to the House of Representatives.⁹ H.R. 9721 imposes additional reporting requirements on section 501(c)(3) organizations that engage in fiscal sponsorship arrangements.¹⁰

The Committee maintains an ongoing interest in the issue of foreign influence affecting tax-exempt organizations and is committed to advancing the work it has undertaken over the past two years. The inquiry into BreakThrough News is a critical component in guiding the Committee's efforts to address and eliminate foreign influence in the American non-profit sector.

The Committee's source of authority for this inquiry is grounded in the Committee's well-established jurisdiction over the Internal Revenue Code and tax-exempt organizations under Rule X, clause 1(t) of the House Rules.¹¹ As a tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3), oversight of BreakThrough News falls directly within the Committee's jurisdiction. Oversight of whether existing law adequately addresses foreign influence over such organizations falls squarely within the Committee's delegated authority, as well.¹²

In response to Counsel's prior requests, the Committee has already narrowed its document requests. In the follow-up letter dated May 4, 2026, the Committee refined the subject matter concerning fiscal sponsorships associated with BreakThrough News, limiting the request to those involving foreign nationals or foreign entities.¹³ The May 4, 2026 letter also further

³ H. Rept. 118-569 - Foreign Grant Reporting Act, Congress.gov (June 28, 2024), <https://www.congress.gov/committee-report/118th-congress/house-report/569>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ H. Rept. 118-896 - American Donor Privacy And Foreign Funding Transparency Act, Congress.gov (Dec. 17, 2024), <https://www.congress.gov/committee-report/118th-congress/house-report/896>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ H.R.8314 - No Foreign Election Interference Act, Congress.gov (Sep. 6, 2024), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/8314/all-actions>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ H.R.9721 - Fiscal Sponsorship Transparency Act of 2026, Congress.gov (July 22, 2026), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/9721>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Rule X, clause 1(t), Rules of the House of Representatives, (119th Cong.).

¹² Rule X, clause 2, Rules of the House of Representatives, (119th Cong.).

¹³ Letter from Jason Smith, Chairman, H. Comm. On Ways and Means, letter to Andrew D. Herman, Founder, Law Office of Andrew D. Herman and Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Partnership for

restricted the scope of communications between employees of BreakThrough News and Neville Roy Singham or other foreign principals to matters of finance, governance, and organizational structure.¹⁴ Additionally, the scope of donor information requested was limited to contributions from foreign nationals and foreign organizations.¹⁵

This letter constitutes formal notification that the Committee is reiterating its request for the documents specified in the July 21, 2026, subpoena. Should BreakThrough News not comply with the production of these documents by October 20, 2026, the Committee will issue additional subpoenas requiring the following individuals to appear before the Committee for depositions.

- Karla Reyes, *Chair and Director*
- Zoe Alexandra, *News Director*
- Ben Becker, *Editor-in-Chief*
- Matthew Belen, *Features Director*
- Rachel Hu, *Community Content and Media Education Director*
- Rania Khalek, *Chief Correspondent*
- Amanda Yee, *Social Media Manager*

Sincerely,



Jason Smith
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means