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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2025

Mr. William Scharf
Chair
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street NE, Suite 500N
Washington, D.C. 20002-6117

Dear Chair Scharf:

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Historical Preservation Caucus, I have substantial concerns regarding the action or inaction by the National Capital Planning Commission and/or the White House during the undertaking of the demolition of the East Wing of the White House. The stark images of the East Wing demolished in mere days were deeply disturbing to Americans who cherish preservation of our nation's history. It also appears, in addition to the demolition of the East Wing, there were no efforts to preserve the historical artifacts or elements of the White House East Wing during removal.

Historic preservation is pivotal to remembering and celebrating our storied national history. Currently, there are over 100,000 nationally registered historic places, including the White House. This allows Americans to experience history and its impact in real time and learn how history directly affects their lives and shapes the world today. Making sure the White House is preserved correctly allows visitors to learn about the White House's role in shaping the United States' government, history, and impact on the world.

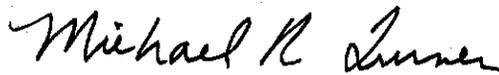
Accordingly, I respectfully request answers to the following inquiries:

1. **Consultation with the White House** – To what extent did officials at the White House consult with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) prior to authorizing or initiating demolition of the East Wing, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)?
2. **Additional Consultation and Written Authorization** – Did the White House seek consultation with the NCPC once it was determined the entire East Wing would be demolished, differing significantly from prior public plans? If so, at this time did the White House seek and obtain formal written approval, concurrence, or other authorization from the NCPC prior to demolition? If so, please provide copies of all correspondence, memoranda, or approvals related to such authorization.
3. **Preservation of Artifacts and Architectural Elements** – What efforts were undertaken by either the NCPC or the White House to identify, document, and preserve historically

- significant artifacts, fixtures, or architectural components within the East Wing prior to demolition?
4. **Compliance Procedures** – What internal NCPC review processes were triggered by the proposed demolition, and how did the Commission ensure compliance with the NHPA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and related preservation statutes?
 5. **Post-Demolition Coordination** – To what extent is the NCPC currently engaged in oversight or advisory capacity regarding the design, construction, and siting of any new structure to replace the demolished East Wing?
 6. **Protection of Remaining Structures** – What mechanisms does the NCPC currently maintain to prevent future demolition, alteration, or modification to other historically significant structures within the White House complex, whether federally or privately funded, without prior Commission review and approval?
 7. **Environmental and Cultural Impact Review** – Was an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement conducted prior to the demolition? If so, please provide copies of such documents and indicate when public notice and comment opportunities were provided.
 8. **Consultation with Advisory Bodies** – Were the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and/or the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office consulted as part of the review process? If not, please explain why these statutory consultations did not occur.
 9. **Public Notice and Transparency** – Given this Administration's dedication to transparency, what public notice or stakeholder engagement processes were conducted prior to demolition, and how did the NCPC ensure compliance with transparency and comment procedures required for projects affecting federally significant historic properties?

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

Respectfully,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress