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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

April 16, 2026

The Honorable Tim Scott
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Scott:

We write to reiterate that no nomination proceedings for Kevin Warsh, President Trump's nominee to serve as the next Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Fed or Federal Reserve), should be held until the pretextual investigations into Chair Powell and Governor Lisa Cook are closed.¹ In the interim, we ask that you instead hold public hearings to assess President Trump's involvement in directing these criminal investigations.

On February 3, 2026, we asked you to delay any nomination proceedings for Mr. Warsh.² As you know, in January 2026, the Justice Department sent grand jury subpoenas to the Federal Reserve as part of a criminal investigation into Chair Powell, allegedly related to his June 2025 testimony before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs about building renovations at the Fed.³ The Trump Administration has also opened a criminal investigation into Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook for alleged mortgage fraud, just weeks after President Trump moved to illegally fire her from the Board.⁴ Both investigations appear to be part of the Trump Administration's broader effort to take control of the Fed. Throughout 2025, for example, President Trump repeatedly threatened to remove Chair Powell over his unwillingness to bow to the President's demands and lower interest rates as requested by the President.⁵

¹ Letter from Ranking Member Warren and Senators Reed, Warner, Van Hollen, Cortez Masto, Smith, Warnock, Kim, Gallego, Blunt Rochester, and Alsobrooks to Chairman Scott, February 3, 2026, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/bhua_dems_letter_to_scott_re_delaying_fed_nomination.pdf.

² *Id.*

³ New York Times, "Federal Prosecutors Open Investigation Into Fed Chair Powell," Glenn Thrush and Colby Smith, January 11, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/11/us/politics/jerome-powell-fed-inquiry-trump.html>.

⁴ Reuters, "US Justice Department opens criminal mortgage fraud probe into Fed Governor Cook," Sarah N. Lynch, September 4, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-justice-department-opens-criminal-mortgage-fraud-probe-into-fed-governor-cook-2025-09-04/>; Letter from President Trump to Governor Lisa Cook, August 25, 2025, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/letter-federal-reserve-governor-lisa-cook-notifying-her-her-dismissal-from-office>.

⁵ New York Times, "Trump Has Draft of Letter to Fire Fed Chair. He Asked Republicans if He Should Send It." Maggie Haberman and Colby Smith, July 16, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/16/us/politics/trump-powell-firing-letter.html>; BBC, "Fed chair Powell hits out at 'unprecedented' probe by US justice department," Ana Faguy and Osmond Chia, January 12, 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c801k7rkkd7o>.

We appreciated your public assertion on February 4, 2026, that you did “not believe [Powell] committed a crime” while testifying before the Committee.⁶ In the weeks since, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia also ruled that the DOJ, in trying to justify grand-jury subpoenas as part of the investigation into Chair Powell, “offered no evidence whatsoever that Powell committed any crime other than displeasing the President.”⁷ The Court quashed the subpoenas, finding that there was “abundant evidence that the subpoenas’ dominant (if not sole) purpose [wa]s to harass and pressure Powell either to yield to the President or to resign and make way for a Fed Chair who will.”⁸ The Court called the “asserted justifications” for the subpoenas were “mere pretexts.”⁹ The Trump Administration unsuccessfully sought to convince the court to reconsider its decision.¹⁰ Although the Court’s ruling provided a clear reason for the DOJ to close the investigation into Chair Powell, the DOJ has yet to close the case.¹¹

President Trump has personally weighed in on the criminal investigation. When the Department’s investigation into Chair Powell was first announced, President Trump dubiously asserted that he did not “know anything” about the probe.¹² Yet just days after the federal district court’s decision in March, President Trump “lashed out” at the judge who blocked the DOJ’s investigation, stating on Truth Social that he “should...suffer serious disciplinary action.”¹³ In the same post, the President stated that Chair Powell “should...be heavily investigated.”¹⁴ As the district court explained at length, citing what it called a “mountain of evidence,” “Trump has specifically aimed his anger at Chair Powell. For years, he has berated Powell, threatened him, ordered him to lower rates, or done all three at once.”¹⁵

⁶ Politico, “Tim Scott on DOJ probe into Powell: ‘I do not believe that he committed a crime’ in Fed HQ testimony,” Victoria Guida, February 4, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2026/02/04/congress/scott-powell-doj-probe-00764230>.

⁷ Politico, “Court blocks probe of Fed Chair Jerome Powell, DOJ to appeal,” Sam Sutton, Josh Gerstein, and Jasper Goodman, March 13, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/03/13/court-blocks-dojs-probe-of-fed-chair-jerome-powell-00828448>.

⁸ U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Memorandum Opinion, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System v. United States of America, filed March 13, 2026, https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.288962/gov.uscourts.dcd.288962.23.0_6.pdf.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Memorandum Opinion, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System v. United States of America, filed March 13, 2026, https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.288962/gov.uscourts.dcd.288962.23.0_6.pdf; U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Memorandum Opinion and Order, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System v. United States of America, filed April 3, 2026, <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.288962/gov.uscourts.dcd.288962.33.0.pdf>.

¹¹ *Id.*; CBS News, “Prosecutors from Jeanine Pirro’s office tried to access Federal Reserve headquarters, but were turned away,” Sarah N. Lynch and Jacob Rosen, April 15, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/prosecutors-jeanine-pirro-office-visit-federal-reserve-headquarters-jerome-powell/>.

¹² New York Times, “Federal Prosecutors Open Investigation Into Fed Chair Powell,” Glenn Thrush and Colby Smith, January 11, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/11/us/politics/jerome-powell-fed-inquiry-trump.html>.

¹³ Truth Social, @realDonaldTrump, March 15, 2026, <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/116236850873003597>; The New York Times, “Justice Dept. Struggles to Take Basic Steps in Targeting Trump’s Rivals,” Michael S. Schmidt and Alan Feuer, March 16, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/16/us/politics/trump-justice-department-investigations.html>.

¹⁴ Truth Social, @realDonaldTrump, March 15, 2026, <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/116236850873003597>.

¹⁵ U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Memorandum Opinion, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System v. United States of America, filed March 13, 2026, https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.288962/gov.uscourts.dcd.288962.23.0_6.pdf.

As we wrote to you previously, it would be “absurd on its face to allow President Trump to handpick the next Chair of the Federal Reserve as his Department of Justice actively pursues criminal investigations of not one, but *two* sitting members of the Federal Reserve Board.”¹⁶ It would also be inappropriate to move forward with Mr. Warsh’s nomination as the President publicly threatens the federal judge who found the DOJ’s probe to lack merit. Furthermore, it would be unreasonable to take the President at his word and assume – despite all of his thinly-veiled assertions to the contrary – that he is uninvolved in the prosecution of Chair Powell.

Therefore, we ask that you delay any nomination proceedings for Mr. Warsh until the pretextual criminal investigations against Chair Powell and other Fed board members have been closed. We also ask that, in the interim, and before moving forward with Mr. Warsh’s nomination, you hold public hearings to assess the extent to which President Trump is directing these investigations.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

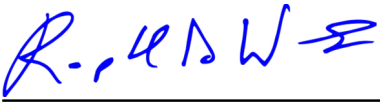


Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator




Tina Smith
United States Senator

¹⁶ Letter from Ranking Member Warren and Senators Reed, Warner, Van Hollen, Cortez Masto, Smith, Warnock, Kim, Gallego, Blunt Rochester, and Alsobrooks to Chairman Scott, February 3, 2026, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/bhua_dems_letter_to_scott_re_delaying_fed_nomination.pdf.



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator