

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603

January 18, 2021

The Honorable Steve Cohen
Congressman
2104 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cohen:

Our nation is in a perilous position and it is critical that Members of Congress serve in an honest and honorable manner during this sensitive time where tensions are high. During your interview on CNN today, you made false, slanderous statements that have threatened the safety of my family, my staff and me.

During the interview, the CNN host asked you whether rioters received advanced reconnaissance tours to help carry out the illegal acts that took place on January 6th at the U.S. Capitol stating, "I want to ask you about something specific because several of your colleagues have alleged that the rioters may have received inside help, including raising the prospects of tours, conducted or with the ok, of fellow sitting Members of Congress. This is quite a charge to make. Have you seen any hard evidence to substantiate that allegation?"

You responded that you saw me giving a Capitol tour to a large group between January 3rd and January 6th and made clear that you believed this was a reconnaissance tour led by a Member of Congress that you witnessed stating, "The only thing I've seen, Congressman Yarmouth refreshed my recollection yesterday, we saw Congressman Boebert taking a group of people for a tour sometime after the 3rd and before the 6th. I remember they were walking in a tunnel and we saw her and are confident who she was and she had a large group with her...But it's pretty clear her team, is the team, she's not on the home team. She was with the visitors."

It's unfortunate that you have connected my family being in D.C. for my swearing in with the Capitol riots, so I'd like to directly address what you claim you saw.

Let me be clear—All of your claims and implications are categorically false. I have never given a tour of the U.S. Capitol to any outside group. As I previously stated, I brought my family to the Capitol on January 2nd for a tour and on the 3rd for pictures to commemorate the day I was sworn in as a Member of the U.S. Congress. Again, the only people I have ever had in the Capitol with me during the 117th Congress are my young children, husband, mom, aunt and uncle.

I'd like to repeat myself in condemning the attacks on the U.S. Capitol. The violence that took place on January 6th was indefensible and these criminals should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. I do not support unlawful acts of violence and support the rule of law. Myself and my entire family are deeply saddened by the loss of life that occurred. We are praying and asking for peace and civility during this coming week and as the country looks to heal from the events of January 6th.

As Members of Congress, we have a duty to elevate the discourse and unify during times of crisis. Associating Members with the attack on our Capitol without any factual evidence to support these claims is not helpful, further divides the country and places Members at risk.

Your false statements are extraordinarily irresponsible during this period in time. Your carelessness has already resulted in multiple media sources and tweets spreading false information which has resulted in threats to my safety as well as the safety of my family and Congressional staff.

Multiple media reports have already "fact-checked" the very statements you made today and declared them categorically false. Here are the real facts: you went on CNN today and repeated irresponsible lies in order to elevate your own political relevance and to further fuel the division of our country. Your actions are irresponsible and dangerous.

In the future, if you have concerns about my actions, as a fellow Member of Congress, please speak with me before making baseless and dangerous allegations. This basic professional courtesy would have allowed you to avoid the embarrassment of being caught in a dangerous lie that has compromised the safety of a Congresswoman, her family, and her staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Boebert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized "B" at the end.

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

Cc: Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill
Congressman Sean Maloney