

LAUREN BOEBERT
3RD DISTRICT, COLORADO
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
BUDGET COMMITTEE



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

1609 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4761
PUEBLO DISTRICT OFFICE:
503 NORTH MAIN
SUITE 426
PUEBLO, CO 81003
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT OFFICE:
743 HORIZON COURT
SUITE 112
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81506
DURANGO DISTRICT OFFICE:
THE WEST BUILDING
835 EAST 2ND AVENUE
SUITE 204
DURANGO, CO 81301
BOEBERT.HOUSE.GOV

April 16, 2021

The Honorable Theodore E. Deutch
Chairman
House Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jackie Walorski
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Statement in Response to March 10, 2021 Complaint

Dear Chairman Deutch and Ranking Member Walorski:

This is my written statement in response to the Complaint filed with the Committee on Ethics (“Committee”) on March 10, 2021, by Representative Pramila Jayapal (WA-07), as requested by the Committee in your letter dated March 18, 2021.

The Complaint makes the baseless claim that I violated House Rule XXIII, clause 1. I swore an oath to uphold and defend the United States Constitution. Our Constitution is the cornerstone of our Republic and I strive every day to uphold my promise. My objections to the counting of Electoral College votes in Arizona and Pennsylvania were based on the Constitution and changes to state law that were not made by the state legislature, not election fraud. Similar objections have been made related to previous elections, including in 2001, 2005, and 2017, all by Democrats. (See examples attached as **Exhibit A**). I have publicly condemned the violence that occurred on January 6, 2021, and I firmly support the rule of law. I strive to behave at all times in a manner that reflects creditably on the House of Representatives and that represents the people of Colorado’s Third Congressional District and makes them proud.

The general allegations are that I was involved “in instigating and aiding the violent riot at the Capitol Building on January 6, 2021” and that I “endangered fellow Members’ lives and pursued a disinformation campaign related to the election results that resulted in an armed uprising.” To be clear, I was not involved in instigating and aiding the riots that took place on January 6th at the U.S. Capitol and there is no evidence that would support further investigation of these unjustified, politically motivated claims. As previously mentioned, my objections to the counting of Electoral College votes in Arizona and Pennsylvania were based on the Constitution and changes to state law that were not made by the state legislature, not election fraud.

Multiple Democrat Members have made baseless allegations for political purposes related to this the same subject matter now before this Committee. In each instance, I have clearly demonstrated that actual facts and evidence prove the allegations as false. Congressman Steve Cohen made unfounded allegations similar to the claims set forth in the Complaint and I responded with a letter demonstrating each allegation as false. (Attached as **Exhibit B**.) In fact, multiple media outlets have investigated and disproved the same false allegations set forth in the Complaint, including USA Today.¹

The Complaint does not provide any evidence of a violation of House Rule XXIII, clause 1. Instead, the Complaint alleges that my conservative principles and vocal support of the Second Amendment are somehow the basis for an ethics violation. In instances where the Complaint does provide specific claims, the “evidence” is intentionally misleading or entirely inaccurate. For instance, throughout the Complaint the claim is made that my past statements supporting Second Amendment rights are somehow connected to the deplorable actions of certain individuals storming the U.S. Capitol. While the fact that the Complaint does not provide any evidence of a violation of House Rule XXIII, clause 1, appears dispositive, I will address each specific claim below:

1. The Complaint alleges that my prior references to “1776” as a historic day granting our country’s independence and liberty are a connection point to the riots that took place on January 6th at the U.S. Capitol. Throughout my adult life, and in my campaign and public service, I have consistently referenced 1776, because I, like most Americans, regard the date our nation was founded with reverence (see examples attached as **Exhibit C**). It is an expression of my pride for America’s Founding Fathers, the Declaration of Independence, and the establishment and endurance of this great country. The Complaint misrepresents my reference to “1776” on January 6th as somehow supporting the illegal acts that took place at the U.S. Capitol when, in fact, the record proves that my reference to “1776” was specifically made in relation to the importance of legal efforts to ensure the validity and integrity of our electoral system. In recent years, Democrats have also made numerous statements about the need for election integrity. (See examples attached as **Exhibit D**). Therefore, these accusations are completely false and without merit. Furthermore, the accusation is incompatible with my contemporaneous and unambiguous statement denouncing the violence earlier in the day. The Complaint remarkably asserts that federal elected officials should be restricted and punished for referencing the date the Declaration of Independence was adopted.
2. The Complaint alleges that I “tweeted the location of Speaker Nancy Pelosi.” This statement is patently false and libelous. I never disclosed the location of Speaker Pelosi. While we were in the middle of a chaotic and terrifying situation, I, along with many of my fellow Members, communicated via social media regarding the events taking place and our safety (see examples attached as **Exhibit E**). I tweeted that we were locked in the House Chambers and that the Speaker left during the lockdown. Media outlets broadcast live on television the exact details of my tweets prior to them being tweeted. I did not

¹ Available at: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2021/01/16/fact-check-lauren-boebert-group-photo-2019-colorado-capitol/4163857001/>.

share the location of Speaker Pelosi while she was in the Chamber, after she left, or at any other time. The Complaint's allegation that I shared the location of Speaker Nancy Pelosi is false.

3. The Complaint alleges that I "encouraged violence in and around the Capitol." This claim is a complete fabrication, and the Complaint provides no evidence supporting this allegation. The two examples provided have nothing to do with encouraging violence anywhere and have nothing to do with the events of January 6, 2021. This claim seems to rely only on the Complainants' personal and political belief that a law-abiding citizen exercising her constitutional right to carry a firearm must inherently be encouraging violence. Nevertheless, I will address each irrelevant example provided in the Complaint.

First, I strongly believe that the U.S. Constitution grants unalienable rights to citizens of this country. My tweet from December 2020, "I prefer to speak loudly and carry a Glock," expresses my belief that I can exercise my First Amendment and Second Amendment rights that are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. This statement, defending explicit provisions found in the U.S. Constitution, cannot possibly be used to support a claim that I was encouraging individuals to illegally enter the U.S. Capitol two months later. In fact, I have made statements about vocally and proudly defending Second Amendment rights long before serving as a Member of Congress. Furthermore, this statement has zero connection to individuals' illegal entrance of the U.S. Capitol. The Complaint's claim that a Member of Congress should be restricted from exercising constitutional rights is outrageous.

Second, I never claimed I was going to open carry in Washington, D.C., or break the law. The statement that I "pledged to carry a handgun around the Capitol, despite D.C. laws banning open carry in the city" is false. I am legally permitted to carry my firearm in Washington, D.C., and received my concealed carry license from the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department that allows me to conceal carry within the District. Nothing in my video supports or encourages violence. Again, to claim that my communications to constituents and the general public supporting the Second Amendment should be restricted is outrageous. More directly to the issue before this Committee, the Complaint provides zero evidence that my consistent support for Second Amendment rights has any connection to the events that occurred on January 6, 2021.

4. There is absolutely no evidence to support the claim that I have "maintained close ties to known extremist groups" present on January 6th at the U.S. Capitol. I have condemned all forms of political violence and have repeatedly made clear that those who stormed the U.S. Capitol should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. I have never had nor do I have any ties to extremist groups present at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th. I am not a member of any of those organizations and do not attend their meetings. Like every candidate across the country, I have posed for thousands of photographs with individuals on the campaign trail. I do not know the background of every individual I take a picture with. My willingness to be in a photo with other people in no way indicates that I know of or in any way endorse each of their beliefs or activities. It is a rather ordinary activity for a political figure, and the attempt to equate a photo op with an affiliation with that

individuals' beliefs is absurd. Does the Complainant suggest that candidates for public office must perform due diligence on each individual requesting a photograph? Even more ridiculous is the claim that a photo of a person standing in front of my business without my knowledge, presence, or permission indicates that I have "close ties" with him. This claim, like the prior claims, provides zero evidence of improper conduct.

Following these specific unfounded allegations, the Complaint further devolves into a political line of attack by recounting the opinions of individuals who oppose me politically, specifically citing 60 Democrat elected officials who signed a letter requesting an investigation (but provided no evidence of wrongdoing) and a former state representative who endorsed my Democrat opponent. The reference to the Republican Members of Congress who "spoke out against me" was in an article related to tweets, as previously addressed. In addition, the allegations in the Complaint against Representative Gaetz were not similar to those in this Complaint, and therefore it does not provide precedent to support an investigation against me.

Finally, the Complaint pronounces that it is critical for the functioning of Congress and our democracy that baseless claims be investigated. In actuality, the real impropriety is having Members abusing this formal ethics investigation process to advance false, politically-motivated attacks without any evidence to support the underlying claims. Specifically, Representative Jayapal, who is the Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, has made similar unsubstantiated ethics claims against other Republican Members of Congress. This practice demeans this body and distracts this Committee from carrying out its formal function of investigating actual, substantiated, and non-partisan claims of ethical misconduct.

The Complaint provides no evidence that my conduct violated House Rule XXIII, clause 1, or any other applicable provision of law and I respectfully request that the Complaint be summarily dismissed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Boebert". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "L" and a star-like flourish at the end.

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

Cc: Office of Congressional Ethics

EXHIBIT A

Democrats objected to Electoral College certification in 2001, 2005, 2017.

2017 objections included:

- Rep. Jim McGovern objected to the counting of electoral votes in Alabama.
- Rep. Jamie Raskin objected to the counting of electoral votes in Florida.
- Rep. Pramila Jayapal objected to the counting of electoral votes in Georgia.
- Rep. Barbara Lee objected to the counting of electoral votes in Michigan.
- Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee objected to the counting of electoral votes in New York.
- Rep. Raul Grijalva objected to the counting of electoral votes in North Carolina.
- Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee objected to the counting of electoral votes in South Carolina.
- Rep. Barbara Lee objected to the counting of electoral votes in West Virginia.
- Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee objected to the counting of electoral votes in Wyoming.

See: <https://www.cnn.com/2017/01/06/politics/electoral-college-vote-count-objections/index.html>

2005 objections included:

- Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Senator Barbara Boxer objected to the counting of electoral votes in Ohio.

See: <https://rumble.com/vcfb31-resurfaced-video-of-dems-objecting-to-electoral-college-votes-is-brutal.html?mref=23gga&mc=8uxj1>

2001 objections included:

- Rep. Maxine Waters, Alcee Hastings, Bernice Johnson, Sheila Jackson Lee and Jesse Jackson Jr. objected to the counting of electoral votes in Florida.

See: <https://rumble.com/vcfb31-resurfaced-video-of-dems-objecting-to-electoral-college-votes-is-brutal.html?mref=23gga&mc=8uxj1>

EXHIBIT B

LAUREN BOEBERT
3RD DISTRICT, COLORADO

1605 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4761

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 stylized and cursive.

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

Cc: Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill
Congressman Sean Maloney

EXHIBIT C

Lauren Boebert @laurenboebert · Jan 6

1776 is the foundation of our country. Today I signed my name to a document to defend that foundation and our freedom.

The violence we saw today is inexcusable. Pray for America.



Lauren Boebert @laurenboebert · Sep 16, 2020

I've been fighting my whole life.

I didn't grow up rich.

I didn't have anything handed to me.

I need your help to get across the finish line on Nov. 3!

My opponent is throwing everything at me. Stand with me & donate **\$17.76** today!

FREEDOM!



Lauren Boebert @laurenboebert · May 7, 2020

If you're with me, pitch in **\$17.76** to support the #2A! I'll NEVER vote for any legislation that limits our Constitutional rights.



Lauren Boebert for Congress
Join me in supporting Lauren Boebert for Congress -
<https://secure.anedot.com/lauren-boebert-for-congress/twitter>
secure.anedot.com

Lauren Boebert @laurenboebert · Aug 21, 2020

We're getting closer to the most critical election of our lifetimes.

Our freedom is on the ballot.

Democrats are pouring cash into Colorado's 3rd District to stop me from going to Washington DC!

Pitch in **\$17.76** today & let's fight for freedom together!



Lauren Boebert For Congress
Lauren Boebert Will Fight For Your Freedom!
secure.winred.com

EXHIBIT D

In recent years, Democrats have repeatedly emphasized the importance of election security.

- Sen. Schumer: “Senate Democrats are taking to the floor today to demand election security legislation.”
- Sen. Schumer: “election security is necessary...if Americans don’t believe their elections are on the up-and-up, woe is us as a country and as a democracy.”
- Sen. Schumer: “We want to secure our elections. There’s nothing partisan about that.”
- Sen. Kamala Harris: “It’s never been more urgent to secure our elections.”
- Sen. Durbin: “I want an election to truly reflect the way the American people feel about candidates and issues that are before them.”
- Sen. Jeff Merkley: “the American people are calling out for election integrity.”
- Sen. Ron Wyden: “Any failure to secure our elections amounts to disenfranchising American voters.”
- Sen. Jon Tester: “we need to act now to ensure that our elections remain free of outside influence.”
- Sen. Schumer tweeted at least 50 times on the need to strengthen “election security.”
- Speaker Pelosi and House Democrats launched a task force dedicated to “election security.”

EXHIBIT E

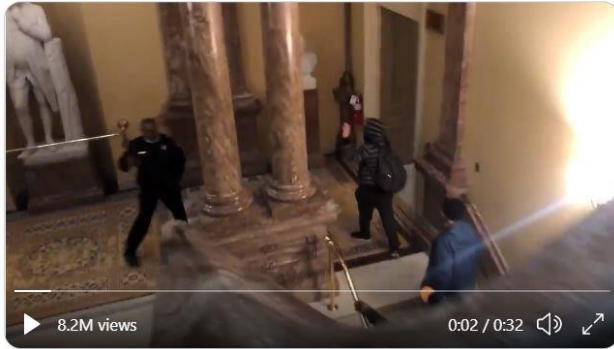
 **Lauren Boebert**  @laurenboebert · Jan 6
We were locked in the House Chambers.
4.1K replies 4.3K retweets 24.1K likes

 **Lauren Boebert**  @laurenboebert · Jan 6
The Speaker has been removed from the chambers.
5.7K replies 3.3K retweets 7.3K likes

 **Rep. Veronica Escobar**  @RepEscobar

I'm currently sheltering in place. The Capitol building has been breached and both chambers are locked down.

This is the chaos and lawlessness @realDonaldTrump has created.



From **Jazmine Ulloa** 
2:26 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

 **Rep. Haley Stevens**  @RepHaleyStevens

I'm sheltering in place in my office. The building next door has been evacuated. I can't believe I have to write this.

1:45 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter Web App

 **Rep. Jason Crow**  @RepJasonCrow

I'm currently in lockdown in the House chamber as the President of the United States incites his supporters to violence and to storm the Capitol. This is the outcome of Trump's presidency.

2:27 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter Web App

 **Rep. Dan Kildee**  @RepDanKildee

I am safe and in the House Chamber. Protesters breached the U.S. Capitol building and forced the House and Senate chambers to go into recess.

The President and every single Republican who incited and encouraged this behavior must denounce it immediately.

2:29 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · TweetDeck

 **Rep. Dan Kildee**  @RepDanKildee

I am in the House Chambers. We have been instructed to lie down on the floor and put on our gas masks. Chamber security and Capitol Police have their guns drawn as protesters bang on the front door of the chamber.

This is not a protest. This is an attack on America.

2:52 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · TweetDeck

 **Congresswoman Cori Bush**  @RepCori

I'm in the Capitol. I'm safe, and my team and I are sheltering in place.

The President of the United States has incited a riot that has now stormed the Capitol. There are rioters roaming the halls of the Capitol. I saw them with my own eyes.

Our country deserves better.

2:37 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Rep. Val Demings
@RepValDemings

The Capitol is on lockdown. Violent Trump protesters are threatening the People's House.

My office has been evacuated. Staff are safe. Praying for the safety of the Capitol Police officers who keep us safe.

This is not what our country should look like. We're so much better.

2:25 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

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Mo Brooks
@RepMoBrooks

.@RepGosar OF ARIZONA = Objection sponsor. GOP #7.

Details massive AZ election fraud compounded by AZ officials refusing to investigate fraud allegations, thus aiding voter fraud & election theft.

DOORS LOCKED! CAPITOL COMPLEX BREACHED!
CHAMBER DOORS LOCKED. SPEAKER LEAVES!

2:18 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter for iPad

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Mo Brooks
@RepMoBrooks

HOUSE RECESSED UNTIL ORDER & SAFETY CAN BE ASSURED.

Rumor: ANTIFA fascists in backwards MAGA hats. Time will tell what truth is.

Capitol Police Announcement: Capitol breach. Locked down! DO NOT LEAVE CHAMBER!

2:20 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter for iPad

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Mo Brooks
@RepMoBrooks

At least [#Socialist](#) [#Democrats](#) have NOT defunded Capitol police.

Evacuating chamber.

2:39 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter for iPad

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