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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

September 28, 2026

The Honorable David L. Norquist
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Defense Industrial Association
2101 Wilson Blvd, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Norquist:

The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence oversees intelligence-related activities across the national security enterprise, including the Intelligence Community's work with private contractors. As part of that responsibility, the Committee examines whether these contracting relationships create conflicts of interest and risks to national security.

As the National Defense Industrial Association represents hundreds of companies with contracts with the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense, I request your assistance in reminding your member companies of their obligation to be responsive to congressional oversight. Specifically, I am concerned that the current Administration has departed from decades of precedent in favor of unethical or even nakedly corrupt dealings with the private sector. At times, the Administration has appeared to inappropriately fuse the government contracting process with the attempted extraction of political or private favors.

For example, on July 31, 2025, President Trump announced plans to build a new ballroom on the White House grounds where the East Wing of the White House once stood. The White House said the project would be paid for with private contributions rather than congressionally appropriated funds. Some of the companies publicly identified as having contributed funding to this effort are members of the NDIA and, according to reporting, have significant contracts with the Intelligence Community.

Going forward, the Committee may seek information in the form of documents, communications, transcribed testimony, and otherwise to understand how corporate contributions to this project were solicited and made, who was involved in those discussions, and whether contributions were related in any way to the goal of obtaining or maintaining government contracts, access to the President or Administration officials, or other benefits. The Committee may also consider whether contributions of this kind create actual or apparent conflicts of interest and national security risks, and whether additional

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disclosure requirements or other safeguards should be put in place via federal legislation. Finally, the Committee may seek documents and other information to understand other unusual dealings between the White House, senior Administration officials, and NDIA members.

For these reasons, I request that you ensure your Members who provide services to the Intelligence Community and the broader national security enterprise understand that these matters are of significant interest to me and other Members of this Committee, and are topics upon which we are likely to take future investigative steps.

Intelligence Community contractors provide valuable services to the nation, and to the extent they are being pressured in ways that corrupt the contracting process, Congress has a vital oversight interest. I intend to ensure this matter is thoroughly investigated, and I appreciate your assistance in that effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Himes". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a cursive "Himes".

James A. Himes
Ranking Member
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

cc: The Honorable Eric "Rick" Crawford, Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence