

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

June 24, 2026

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Jessica Bowron
Acting Director, National Park Service
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum and Acting Director Bowron,

I write again regarding the National Park Service's (NPS) role in operating and apparently concealing the President's construction projects in our nation's capital. On June 9, 2026, I requested that you provide information and records by June 23 on the dubious series of contracts involving your agencies, in disregard of legal requirements and favoring people with personal connections to the President.¹ I have received no response to that letter, but recent events confirm the urgent need for a full accounting. Accordingly, I am writing to reiterate my request and demand new information concerning work done at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.

As I noted in my first letter, NPS's projects at President Trump's behest in the Washington, DC area have been marked variously by apparent corruption, a shocking concealment of facts, disregard for legal requirements, and ongoing incompetence.² Since I last wrote to you, the conditions at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool have shown the consequences. Rushed no-bid contracts given to unqualified vendors with previous relationships to the President resulted in a reflecting pool covered with algae and freshly painted chunks of paint peeling from the bottom and floating on the pool's surface.³ Without any evidence, President Trump blamed vandalism,⁴

¹ Letter from the Hon. Richard Blumenthal, Ranking Member, S. Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations to the Hon. Doug Burgum, Sec. of the Interior, and Jessica Bowron, Acting Director, NPS (June 9, 2026), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026-06-09-Letter-from-Ranking-Member-Blumenthal-to-Secretary-Burgum-and-Acting-Director-Bowron.pdf>.

² *See id.*

³ Cat Zakrewski & Maura Judkis, *Trump likely to drain Reflecting Pool again, following peeling paint and algae*, Wash. Post (June 20, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/06/20/trump-likely-drain-reflecting-pool-again-following-peeling-paint-algae/>.

⁴ Donald J. Trump, Truth Social (June 21, 2026), <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/116790016615762850>. Indeed, NPS officials arrested a former Olympian who apparently reached into the reflecting pool to feel the texture of a detached segment of paint. David J. Lynch and Aaron Schaffer, *Cyclist arrested at Reflecting Pool is former Olympian who denies vandalism claims*,

but he has acknowledged that the conditions have become so intolerable that the pool will need to be drained and repaired again.⁵ Mere weeks ago, when the project was purportedly completed, President Trump proclaimed it “could last for 100 years.”⁶ He recently had closed door talks with contractors about completely redoing the work.⁷ Washington, DC will now celebrate America’s 250th birthday with an empty reflecting pool, a testament to incompetence and corruption, instead of our nation’s greatness.

The American people deserve answers about how this debacle occurred and what other issues plague the work NPS is currently undertaking. Accordingly, pursuant to Senate Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), Section 12, I write to reiterate my request that you provide the Subcommittee with the information and records⁸ requested in my June 9, 2026 letter by July 8, 2026, including any records created since June 9, 2026.

Please also provide the Subcommittee with the following information by July 8, 2026:

1. Which contractors did President Trump meeting with regarding the Reflecting Pool while he was in Camp David the weekend of June 20th?
2. Does NPS intend to use the same contractors who made the earlier repairs to the Reflecting Pool to undertake the new work?
3. What chemicals did NPS add to the Reflecting Pool to combat algae in the Reflecting Pool?
4. Was any environmental assessment conducted prior to the use of these chemicals in the Reflecting Pool?
5. In light of President Trump’s allegations of vandalism, what steps is NPS taking to preserve evidence of the deterioration of the reflecting pool, including preserving segments of blue paint that have disintegrated?

Wash. Post (June 20, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2026/06/20/cyclist-arrested-reflecting-pool-denies-trump-vandalism-claims/>

⁵ Zakrewski & Judkis, *supra* note 3.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ For purposes of this request, “records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), direct messages, chats, calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

Secretary Burgum and Acting Director Bowron
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Please contact Subcommittee staff should you have any questions about responding to this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations