

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 14, 2024

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is continuing oversight of Amtrak's use of eminent domain to override leasing agreements at D.C.'s Union Station.¹ On June 26, 2024, the Committee sent you a request for documents and communications regarding Amtrak's use of eminent domain. That request set forth a deadline of July 10, 2024, to fulfill the request and produce the relevant documents and communications. This Committee has received no substantive response from your agency, even after attempts by Committee staff to obtain a timeline from your agency on the production of responsive documents. The Committee previously requested the following documents and information:

1. All communications between Amtrak and/or Department of Transportation personnel pertaining to the planned renovations of Union Station,
2. All documents and communications between Amtrak and/or Department of Transportation personnel and the White House regarding the planned renovations of Union Station and the use of eminent domain at Union Station, and
3. All communications between Amtrak and/or Department of Transportation personnel containing proposed justifications for the use of eminent domain of Union Station.

The Committee reiterates its outstanding requests for the information outlined in its June 26, 2024 letter. If you continue to fail to produce the requested documents by August 21, 2024, the Committee will consider additional measures, including use of the compulsory process, to gain compliance and obtain this critical material.

¹ Letter from James Comer, Chair, H. Comm. On Oversight & Accountability, to Peter Buttigieg, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Transportation (June 26, 2024).

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Attached are instructions for producing the documents and information to the Committee. If you have any questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority staff at 202-225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability has specific oversight and legislative jurisdiction over the “[m]unicipal affairs of the District of Columbia in general” under House Rule X. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability