

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0550

March 23, 2022

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Meta Platforms, Inc.
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Re: Record and Document Preservation Requirements

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

I write to request your organization immediately initiate document preservation for all materials relating to questions, inquiry, conversation, strategy, and response to the media reporting of the Hunter Biden laptop and/or its contents that first appeared in the New York Post on October 14, 2020.¹

Material preservation is essential for Congress to conduct a comprehensive fact-finding investigation into actions by technology companies, media organization and political allies to suppress information and prevent public awareness of matters involving the Biden Family.

At 5 am October 14, 2020, the New York Post detailed the following:

Hunter Biden introduced his father, then-Vice President Joe Biden, to a top executive at a Ukrainian energy firm less than a year before the elder Biden pressured government officials in Ukraine into firing a prosecutor who was investigating the company, according to emails obtained by The Post.

The never-before-revealed meeting is mentioned in a message of appreciation that Vadym Pozharskyi, an adviser to the board of Burisma, allegedly sent Hunter Biden on April 17, 2015, about a year after Hunter joined the Burisma board at a reported salary of up to \$50,000 a month.

“Dear Hunter, thank you for inviting me to DC and giving an opportunity to meet your father and spent [sic] some time together. It’s really [sic] an honor and pleasure,” the email reads.

An earlier email from May 2014 also shows Pozharskyi, reportedly Burisma’s No. 3 exec, asking Hunter for “advice on how you could use your influence” on the company’s behalf.

The blockbuster correspondence — which flies in the face of Joe Biden’s claim that he’s “never spoken to my son about his overseas business dealings” — is contained in a massive trove of data recovered from a laptop computer.

¹ Morris, Emma-Jo and Gabrielle Fonrouge. New York Post, October 14, 2020, <https://nypost.com/2020/10/14/email-reveals-how-hunter-biden-introduced-ukrainian-biz-man-to-dad/>

At 11:10 am the same day, in your official capacity as “Communications” for Facebook, you issued the following on Twitter:

While I will intentionally not link to the New York Post, I want (sic) be clear that this story is eligible to be fact checked by Facebook's third-party fact checking partners. In the meantime, we are reducing its distribution on our platform.

Less than two hours later, at 1 pm, you added the following, again on Twitter:

This is part of our standard process to reduce the spread of misinformation. We temporarily reduce distribution pending fact-checker review.

To this day, there is no evidence of “misinformation” in the New York Post’s reporting. Additionally, I can find no public record of any completed “fact-checker review” or public evidence that such a process was ever undertaken at Facebook.

As I am sure you are further aware, the contents of the Post’s reporting was confirmed by the New York Times on March 17, 2022: <https://nypost.com/2022/03/17/hunter-bidens-infamous-laptop-confirmed-in-new-york-times-report/>

Despite numerous requests to do so, we also find no evidence that you or Meta ever corrected your false assertions or apologized for reducing the distribution of the Post’s reporting on your platform.

More specifically, this preservation request should be construed as an instruction to preserve all documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, that is or may be potentially responsive to this congressional inquiry. This includes electronic messages about the determined topic that are sent using official and personal accounts or devices, including records created using text messages, phone-based message applications, or encryption software. For purposes of this request, “preserve” includes to take reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, mutation, or negligent or reckless handling that could render the information incomplete or inaccessible. This includes preserving all compilations of documents that have already been gathered in response to other government or litigation requests, even if copies of individual documents or materials may still exist elsewhere in the organization.

Please notify relevant current and former employees, officials, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants who may have access to relevant information to preserve and retain this information.

Thank you for your cooperation in this critical oversight matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress