ELISSA SLOTKIN
MICHIGAN

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
ARMED SERVICES
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

November 18, 2026

By Email

United States Attorney Aaron Reitz
U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas
1000 Louisiana, Ste. 2300
Houston, TX 77002

Re: Threats to prosecute Senator Elissa Slotkin

Dear U.S. Attorney Reitz:

I am writing in response to the letter you posted on social media, dated November 12, 2026, threatening to criminally prosecute me for saying publicly that the U.S. Senate should investigate and hold accountable individuals in the Administration who have broken the law or abused taxpayer dollars. I made those statements consistent with my basic right to freedom of speech, a right that every American enjoys under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

This is the second time this Administration has threatened me with prosecution in less than a year for my constitutionally protected speech. In February, the Department of Justice tried – unsuccessfully – to criminally indict me for sedition because of a 90-second video I made reminding service members of their legal duty to disobey unlawful orders.

In addition to my First Amendment rights, as a United States Senator, oversight is an important constitutional responsibility. The Constitution's Speech or Debate clause bars prosecution of a legislator for conducting an investigation or performing other legislative acts. As such, your threat of investigation is baseless, and you should withdraw your letter immediately.

Your public threats to prosecute a sitting Senator for speech and legislative oversight also violate Justice Department policy.[1] Your breach of these rules – publicly posting your letter instead of providing it directly to me, my attorney, or Senate Legal Counsel – is evidence that your threat of investigation is more about publicity and your political ambitions than any sort of legitimate inquiry.

[1] *E.g.*, Justice Manual §§1-7.001; 1-7.100 ("General Need for Confidentiality"); 1-7.310 ("Each of the 93 United States Attorneys will exercise discretion and sound judgment, consistent with this Policy.").

Additionally, you have bragged repeatedly that you fight your battles, including political battles, through "lawfare."[2] Exercising the power of a U.S. Attorney because you do not like my "political association, activities, or beliefs" is also prohibited by the Justice Manual—and, more importantly, by the First Amendment and by the very criminal laws you mistakenly cited in your threat.[3] As a United States Senator, I preserve my records as a matter of course. I have no intent of changing that practice now.

Despite the Attorney General having said that my statements were "absolutely not a crime" and that there are no investigations over my words,[4] the Department of Justice is yet again threatening basic speech. You are either unaware of basic constitutional rights or merely seeking attention for yourself and the Department. Given all of this, your threats are frivolous and a violation of your ethical duties as an attorney. I reserve all rights to take appropriate actions in the future as it relates to this sham investigation.

Finally, these repeated attempts by the Department to try to intimidate and silence me demonstrates an abuse of taxpayer money and resources, particularly when the Department has already tried and lost, unanimously, to have me indicted by a Grand Jury in February. Today, just as back then, I will not be deterred from continuing to fulfill my constitutional responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator

cc: Attorney General Todd Blanche

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[2] *See, e.g., Red American In Defiance (feat. Brent Webster, Aaron Reitz, and Andrew Kloster)*, at 14:20, YouTube (Nov. 2021) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDIaTicWjUk ("We are at war… the way that we fight that war is our soldiers are lawyers and our weapons are lawsuits and our tactics is lawfare."); *Real Texans: Aaron Reitz*, at 35:50, YouTube August 2025) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxTSx6Sucwo ("The sort of headline making explosive fun lawfare, right? Blue versus red, red versus blue.")

[3] Justice Manual §9-27.260; *Bordenkircher v. Hayes*, 434 U.S. 357, 363 (1978); *United States v. Armstrong*, 517 U.S. 456, 463 (1996).

[4] *See, e.g., Exclusive Dan Abrams Confronts AG Todd Blanche Over Political Investigations*, at 08:03, YouTube (Nov. 12, 2026), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33zqoDk623A ("Of course, what the Senator said in and of itself is absolutely not a crime."); Ryan J. Reilly, *No Investigations for Words of Democrats, Todd Blanche Says*, NBC News (Nov. 12, 2026) https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/doj-no-investigations-words-democrats-todd-blanche-says-rcna609073