

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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March 2, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We write regarding your appointment of LTG Russel Honoré to lead a review of “the Capitol’s security infrastructure, interagency processes and procedures, and command and control.”¹ Although we are grateful for his service to our country, LTG Honoré has made many comments critical of U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) officers and certain Members of Congress—statements that call into question the supposed impartiality of his review. LTG Honoré is entitled to his personal opinions, but we are concerned that his selection will undermine the serious purpose of this review: to develop a fair and clear-eyed assessment of the systemic security and leadership failures concerning the events of January 6. We therefore write to inquire about your decision-making process in selecting LTG Honoré.

LTG Honoré’s security review must necessarily include the conduct and communications of the House Sergeant-at-Arms and the USCP. However, LTG Honoré has already spoken ill about members of the USCP, once referring to them in an interview as “asshats” for asking him to abide by security protocols during a visit to the Capitol.² This statement is troublesome as LTG Honoré will undoubtedly examine some of these same security protocols during his review.

Even more concerning, LTG Honoré appears to have prejudged the conduct of USCP officers on January 6. He suggested, without evidence, that members of the USCP “allowed their buddies”—meaning the rioters—“in[to the Capitol building]” on January 6.³ He claimed that the rioters “had help inside the [USCP] force,” and that the rioters were able to gain access to the Capitol building because “30 to 40 percent of the [USCP] officers are ‘Trumpsters.’”⁴ To call these remarks inflammatory is an understatement. These statements are deeply offensive and

¹ Press Release, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Pelosi Announces that Lt. General Russel L. Honoré (Ret.) Will Lead Immediate Review of Capitol Security (Jan. 15, 2021).

² Roland Martin Unfiltered podcast (published Jan. 9, 2021) (interview with LTG Russel L. Honoré), <https://youtu.be/yzBP2Hs47rI>.

³ Rowan Scarborough, *Pelosi pick to lead Capitol probe says police ‘complicit,’ helped rioters*, Wash. Times, Feb. 18, 2021.

⁴ *Id.*

should be disqualifying for anyone to lead a serious and objective review of the Capitol's security.

LTG Honoré has also made derogatory public statements directed toward certain Members of Congress. On January 12, he replied to a tweet about Rep. Lauren Boebert being detained outside the House Chamber, indicating support for her detention and suggesting that USCP officers “Put Her Stupid Ass on the No Fly List.”⁵ LTG Honoré also called for United States Senator Josh Hawley to be “run out of DC” for objecting to the certification of the Electoral College on January 6—an official action taken consistent with federal law. LTG Honoré wrote: “This little peace [*sic*] of shit with his @Yale law degree should be run out of DC and Disbarred ASAP @HawleyMO @tedcruz aaa [ass] hats . These @Yale and @Harvard law grads is high order white privilege .”⁶ LTG Honoré has reportedly deleted this tweet about Senator Hawley.⁷

Republicans have been consistent in disavowing all forms of political violence. We condemn the acts of January 6, just as we condemned the acts of violence and lawlessness in American cities last summer. The violence at the U.S. Capitol on January 6 was as wrong as wrong can be. The security of the Capitol requires a serious and objective examination—one in which all Members and the American people can have confidence in the findings.

Regrettably, LTG Honoré's public statements—in which he disparaged and prejudged the conduct of heroic USCP officers on January 6, and in which he displayed partisan criticism of Senator Hawley's official actions—raise troubling questions about LTG Honoré's effectiveness in leading a fair and impartial review. To help all Members understand your process for selecting LTG Honoré to lead the security review of the Capitol, we respectfully request that you provide the following information:

1. Please identify all candidates the Speaker's office considered to lead the security review of the Capitol.
2. Please explain whether the Speaker's office was aware of LTG Honoré's inflammatory statements about USCP officers and Members of Congress before you selected LTG Honoré to lead the security review of the Capitol.
3. Please explain whether Speaker's office asked, directed, or suggested that LTG Honoré delete information from his social media accounts before or after you selected LTG Honoré to lead the security review of the Capitol.

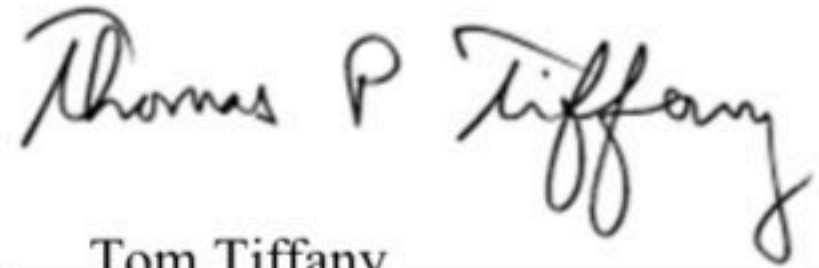
⁵ Tweet by LTG Russel L. Honoré, Twitter.com (Jan. 12, 2021, 8:11 p.m.), <https://twitter.com/ltgrusselhonore/status/1349162086371368960>.

⁶ Bryan Lowry, *Retired general probing Capitol security breakdown said Hawley should be 'run out of DC,'* Kansas City Star, Feb. 18, 2021.

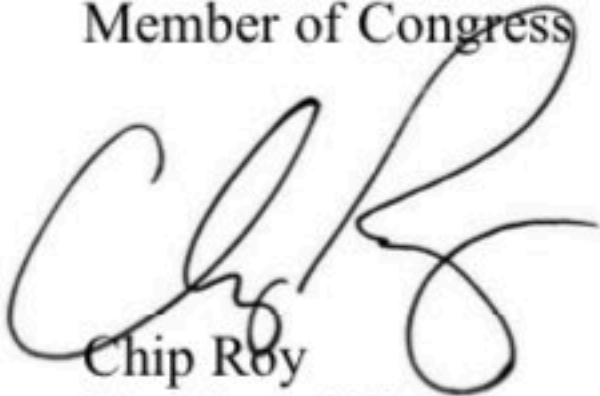
⁷ *Id.*



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



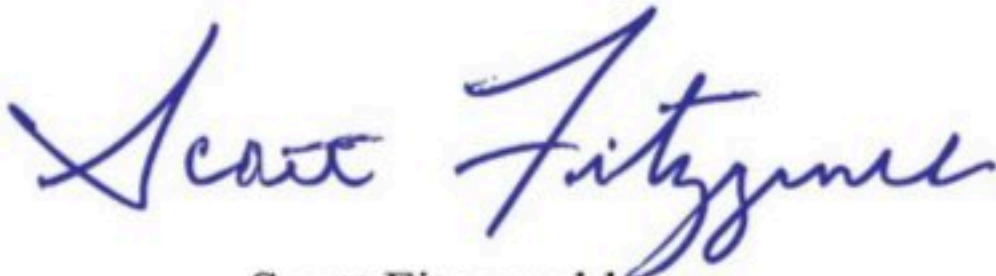
Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



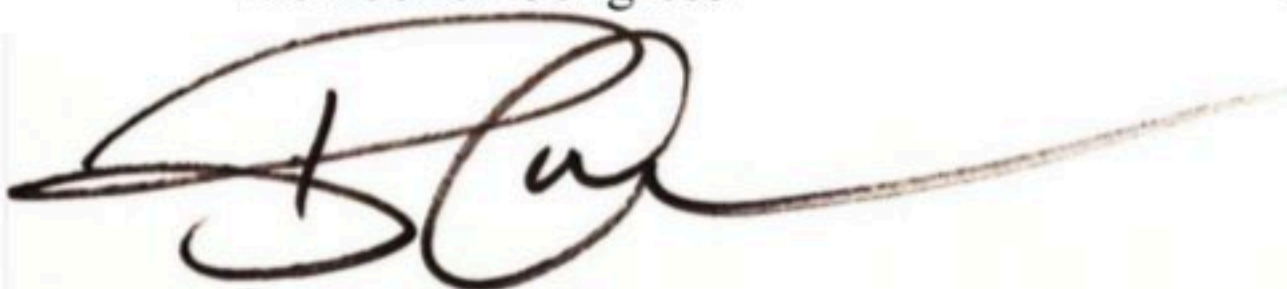
Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress

4. Please make public copies of any communications between the Speaker's office and LTG Honoré, including but not limited to copies of his agreement to lead the review, scoping material for the review, and financial considerations for the review.

The American people and the Congress deserve full and unfettered answers about what happened on January 6 and in the days leading up to it. We have serious reservations that LTG Russel Honoré is the right person to provide those answers. We hope you will provide the requested information immediately.


Sincerely,



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress




Jim Jordan
Ranking Member



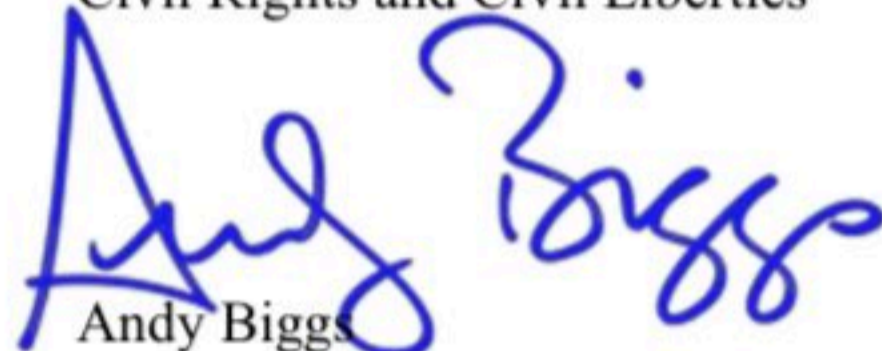
Ken Buck
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Antitrust,
Commercial and Administrative Law



Mike Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Constitution,
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Courts,
Intellectual Property and the Internet



Andy Biggs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
and Homeland Security



Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration and
Citizenship



Louis Gohmert
Member of Congress