

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 28, 2025

The Hon. Lindsey O. Graham
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Senator Graham:

During the Budget Committee's hearing on Wednesday, January 22 to examine the nomination of Russell T. Vought to serve as the Director of Office of Management and Budget, Mr. Vought was repeatedly evasive about whether, if confirmed, he would advise the President to impound Congressionally-appropriated funds in clear violation of Article II of the Constitution and the unambiguous text of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

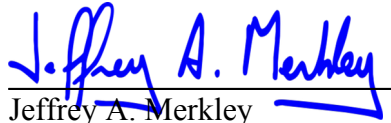
In written responses to questions following the hearing, Mr. Vought continued his refusal to answer direct questions about how executive orders to pause foreign aid funding, as well as funding authorized and appropriated by the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, complied with the law.

Now, less than a week after the hearing, it is clear that Mr. Vought's non-answers were an effort to thwart the Committee from getting the truth of the Trump administration's plan, per OMB memorandum M-25-13, to freeze all funding for "Federal financial assistance programs." While Mr. Vought stonewalled Committee members, he was already planning on halting programs that feed hungry children, heat the homes of low-income families, support farmers, and bring relief to those suffering from natural disasters. The laws Congress passes are not suggestions, and Mr. Vought willfully ignoring them harms the constituents of every Member of the Committee.


It is simply unconscionable that the Budget Committee could vote to confirm Mr. Vought to be Director of Office of Management and Budget without getting some real answers from him about his ongoing efforts to stymie the will of Congress. Mr. Vought is a clear and present danger to Congress's Power of the Purse; his outright refusal to discuss his plans that were already in development is a slap in the face to every Member of the Committee, Democrat and Republican alike.

For those reasons, we request that the business meeting to consider Mr. Vought's nomination, currently scheduled for Thursday, January 30, be postponed for two weeks so the Committee may get full responses to the questions Mr. Vought has thus far refused to answer.

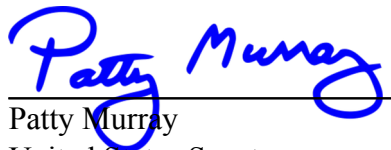
Sincerely,



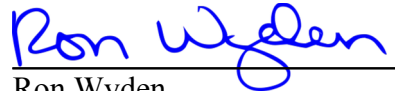
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



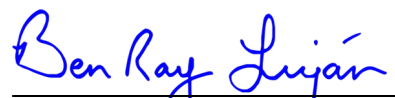
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



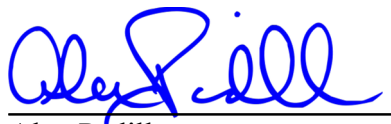
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator