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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

July 9, 2025

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(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

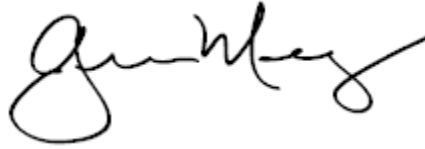
I am writing to you regarding a significant matter of Government transparency and a related issue of legal compliance. Section 1113 of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Public Law 119-4) requires the Commerce Department to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a spending, expenditure, or operating plan for fiscal year 2025: (1) at the program, project, or activity level, or (2) as applicable, at any greater level of detail required for funds covered by such a plan in the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Act, in the joint explanatory statement accompanying such Act, or in committee report language incorporated by reference in such joint explanatory statement. Such a plan was required to be submitted not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of Public Law 119-4 (i.e., by April 29, 2025).

On May 22, 2025, the Commerce Department sent the Appropriations Committees an operating plan. However, this plan merely repeated the appropriations account levels enacted by Congress, and did not provide the greater levels of detail as required by Section 1113 of Public Law 119-4. Therefore, this plan is not compliant with the law.

Nearly four months have now passed since enactment of the Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2025. This is unacceptable. The Department must follow the law and provide its fiscal year 2025 operating plan. I expect you to immediately submit to the Appropriations Committees all of the legally required details regarding the Department's uses of fiscal year 2025 funding.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this important matter. If you are unwilling to provide the plan, please contact me personally and directly immediately. I look forward to receiving the plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grace Meng", with a large loop at the start and a long, sweeping tail.

Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies