

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2023

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

The Committee on the Judiciary is conducting oversight of the programs and operations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). As part of our oversight obligations, we wrote to you on March 9, 2022, requesting a briefing about the status of the FBI's investigation into the pipe bombs placed near the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee and Republican National Committee on January 5, 2021.¹ At the start of the 118th Congress, on January 17, 2023, we reiterated this request.² To date, you have failed to comply.

The Committee requested the briefing after we received a whistleblower disclosure from a senior FBI official that raised questions and concerns about the "unusual" nature of the FBI's investigative efforts and due to the FBI's failure to adequately respond to Rep. Bill Posey's September 2, 2021 request for a briefing on the investigation.³ Specifically, the whistleblower disclosure revealed that the Washington Field Office asked FBI field offices to canvass all confidential human sources nationwide for information about the individual and the crime over a year after the placement of the bombs, and requested that the canvass "include sources reporting on all [types of] threats" because the suspect's "motive and ideology remain unknown."⁴

Your failure to comply with our request is particularly concerning given recent media reports regarding the pipe bomb investigation. According to at least one report from a former FBI agent who worked on the investigation, the FBI linked the suspected pipe bomber to a MetroRail SmarTrip Card that the subject used to travel through the Washington Metro system to a stop in Northern Virginia. The FBI used security camera footage from the Northern Virginia

¹ Letter from Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Christopher A. Wray, Dir. Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Mar. 9, 2022); Press Release, *FBI Washington Field Office Releases Video and Additional Information Regarding the Pipe Bomb Investigation*, Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Sept. 8, 2021).

² Letter from Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Christopher A. Wray, Dir. Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Jan. 17, 2023).

³ Letter from Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Christopher A. Wray, Dir. Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Mar. 9, 2022); Letter from Bill Posey, Member of Congress, to Christopher A. Wray, Director, Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Sept. 2, 2021).

⁴ Fed. Bureau of Investigation e-mail (Feb. 7, 2022).

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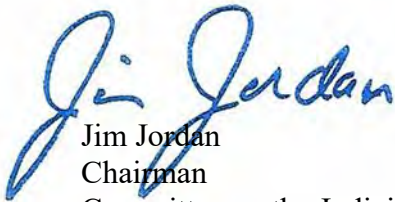
Metro stop to identify the license plate of a car that the individual entered.⁵ Still, the FBI has not identified the subject. One former FBI assistant director observed, “[i]t just doesn’t add up . . . [t]here’s just too much to work with to not know who this guy is.”⁶

The slow progression of the FBI’s investigation into the January 6 pipe bombs raises significant concerns about the FBI’s prioritization of that case in relation to other January 6 investigations. Accordingly, we reiterate our outstanding requests for a briefing on the status of the pipe bomb investigation and request that you provide this briefing as soon as possible, but no later than June 7, 2023.

The Judiciary Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.⁷ If you have any questions about this matter and to schedule the briefing, please ask your staff to contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

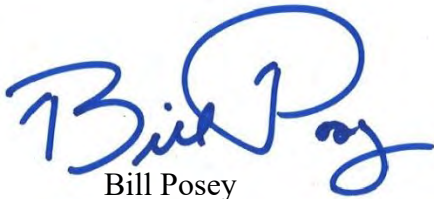
Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary



Andy Biggs
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime and Federal
Government Surveillance
Committee on the Judiciary



Bill Posey
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Crime and
Federal Government Surveillance, Committee on the Judiciary

⁵ Kerry Pickett, *Jan. 6 pipe bombs at RNC, DNC were inoperable, says ex-agent who contradicts FBI’s official story*, WASH. TIMES (May 12, 2023), <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/may/12/jan-6-pipe-bombs-rnc-dnc-were-inoperable-says-ex-a/>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2023).