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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Member Day Testimony on Fiscal Year 2025 FSFG Appropriations

Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury (NM-01)

March 5, 2025

Chairman Dave Joyce, Ranking Member Steny Hoyer, and distinguished Members of the Committee thank you for holding this Member Day and for the opportunity for Members from other committees to speak about our priorities in this space.

As a former civil servant with the White House Office of Management and Budget and the current Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency (DOGE) on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform—I am deeply committed to improving government efficiency and accountability—in ways that are responsible, ethical, and follow the rule of law. The federal government should work for everyone, and for years I have dedicated my life as a civil servant and elected official to that effort, including efforts to realign and make the government more efficient, to consolidate and cut waste from programs, and to ensure the tax payers are getting a good return on investment for the programs we invest in.

However, what the current Administration is carrying out through various Executive Actions, including efforts led by Elon Musk and DOGE are not normal—nor do they appear to be creating greater government efficiency. Mr. Musk, as a Special Government Employee appears to be acting outside of any existing legal authority in the hiring, firing, freezing, or dismantling of federal programs and wholesale restructuring of the federal government and workforce.

I am testifying today to call attention to the harmful and illegal activities being undertaken pursuant to these efforts in the Office of the President, Department of Treasury and other agencies under the jurisdiction of this committee, and to underscore the critical importance Congress plays in the Constitutional checks and balances in conducting oversight, ensuring compliance with Congressional mandates and authorizations, and execution of Congressional funding mandates through the appropriations process. I also will make a number of recommendations for action pursuant to these Congressional responsibilities for the FY 2026 budget.

Within 24 hours of taking office, the current Administration signed over 200 executive actions setting into motion federal funding freezes, pauses on federal hiring, and other actions that have caused widespread chaos across the federal government. This includes executive actions that have dismantled and consolidated entire agencies, including USAID and CFPB, portions of agencies, federal funding freezes, and mass layoffs and firings.

OMB has issued guidance and inquiries that have led to the freezing of federal funds to thousands of federal programs and grants across the United States—which several courts have

issued court orders against, and which the Administration has not complied. Elon Musk, DOGE, and OPM have issued federal personnel orders for which they do not have the authority. They have also deployed staff to individual agencies that are violating federal privacy laws and national security protocols as they are downloading and mining federal datasets at the Department of Treasury, IRS, Social Security and other agencies

Taken together these actions violate the Constitutional separation of powers that underpin the very foundation of our nation's democratic government and are stretching the limits of executive authority. There are currently numerous law suits challenging DOGE's illegal actions which have resulted in injunctions and temporary restraining orders. Congress holds the power of the purse. This subcommittee specifically controls funding for the White House, Office of Management and Budget, Department of the Treasury, Office of Personnel and Management, among other executive branch agencies. This committee must hold the administration accountable for violations of the law and ensure the White House comes before the committee and American people to testify under oath about the actions taken by DOGE. We also suggest adding language in the FY26 budget requiring immediate reports to Congress outlining questions the American people demand answers to including, but not limited to, who is leading and working for DOGE, their security clearances and authorities, what its specific aims and goals are, the authorities it is operating under, what if any detailed reports waste fraud and abuse it has found, and how it plans to operate in within the confines of the law.