

**STATEMENT OF  
THE HONORABLE DINA TITUS (NV-01)**

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

**MARCH 5, 2025**

Chairman Joyce and Ranking Member Hoyer,

As you begin your work on the appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, I strongly urge you not to fund the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) or codify any of its cuts. While there is bipartisan agreement for reducing waste and inefficiencies within government, DOGE and its destructive actions are not the solution. Elon Musk and his team at DOGE do not know what they are doing, and the uncertainty for federal employees is maddening. One day you have a job, then you do not, then you do but you have to move. And many of the claimed efficiencies and savings have turned out to not be true and have had to be removed from DOGE's running tally of so-called savings.

So far, more than 200,000 probationary employees, meaning those who have been on the job for less than a year or have recently been promoted, have been fired.

Last week, National Park Service staff at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in my district were terminated with no notice. We welcome six million visitors to

Lake Mead every year. Not only will these workers – our friends and neighbors in my district – face financial uncertainty without employment, but the crucial roles they play in maintaining the park and keeping it operational will fall to the wayside. Without them, Lake Mead will not be the same.

DOGE has also targeted U.S. Forest Service staff who help prevent wildfires, CDC and USDA scientists fighting the spread of the bird flu, IRS agents processing tax returns, and thousands of employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs. We have always said we have a solemn oath to care for veterans when they return home from deployment. Cutting the VA staffing levels – the very people charged with caring for our veterans – breaks the promise we made. On top of that, nearly 6,000 federal workers have served in the armed forces.

Probationary employees are oftentimes at the start of long careers in public service and have chosen to help their communities through this distinguished work. Now, their careers are at the whims of a billionaire who is trying to fund his own tax breaks. If you ask me, laying off thousands of the Nation's best and brightest is not a "merit-based" system. The long-term ramifications of this ill-advised policy cannot be overstated.

This is just the beginning. Last week, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued a memo to agency leaders with guidance on how to conduct large-scale layoffs. In addition to initiating mass layoffs, Elon Musk and his goons at DOGE have taken steps to intimidate federal workers, including the use of threatening emails asking hardworking air traffic controllers to justify their jobs. Asking federal employees to detail their roles and responsibilities, indicate who they report to, and send all of that information in an email is an immense national security risk. Our adversaries have been trying to map out our federal bureaucracy for years. Putting it all in writing and sending it via email does all of the hard work for them.

The Trump Administration is also working to weaken essential worker protection institutions and programs. President Trump has fired National Labor Relations Board member Gwynne Wilcox, stripping the Board of its quorum and ability to protect workers' rights. He also dismissed two Democratic commissioners from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a federal agency responsible for enforcing workplace civil rights. Both of those moves are unprecedented and illegal.

I stand with our hardworking federal workforce and will do everything in my power to stop this illegal and unprecedented attack. Last week, I introduced an amendment to Republicans' budget resolution that would restrict federal funding for DOGE for the next four years. Unfortunately, Republicans blocked that amendment and all of the others proposed by House Democrats from being considered on the House floor. I have also cosponsored legislation like the *Taxpayer Protection Act* to prevent individuals with clear conflicts of interest, like Elon Musk, from interfering with the Treasury Department's operations and to ensure that DOGE is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

I urge my colleagues on this Committee to stand up to Elon Musk and his billionaire cronies. Federal workers provide essential programs and services people depend on in every Congressional district from keeping our treasured parks and recreation areas open, to caring for veterans and sending out our constituents' Social Security checks. If you want to make our government work better, unilaterally gutting the federal workforce is not the way to go about it.