

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2026

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

On October 14, 2026, Ukrainian forces reported that unexpected restrictions on their SpaceX Starshield satellite communications services severely disrupted their military operations, crippling their air defense and putting Ukrainians at further risk to deadly Russian aerial bombardments.¹ These restrictions came as officials in your Administration were actively pressuring Ukraine to limit strikes on Russia, particularly on oil refineries. The reported goal of your Administration's pressure campaign was to pump more Russian diesel into global markets, amidst high fuel prices caused by your war with Iran.²

According to SpaceX, any limits on speed or usage of Starshield are decided by the U.S. military and the President.³ To date, your Administration has refused to respond to Congressional inquiries on who directed these changes to Ukraine's Starshield services.

In this context there are two possibilities – either SpaceX independently made the decision to restrict Ukrainian Starshield service, or the U.S. Government directed them to do so. If a private company can unilaterally restrict a critical operational service governed by a signed contract with the Department of Defense during an active conflict, it raises serious concerns about public accountability and the outsized influence of private actors over U.S. national security matters. If, on the other hand, the direction was given by your Administration, it raises serious questions about U.S. defense policy regarding Russia and Ukraine. Either way, the American people, our allies, and Ukraine deserve to know why this decision with life-threatening consequences was made.

Please provide responses to the following questions by October 30, 2026:

1. Who authorized the speed restrictions on Starshield services provided to Ukraine?
 - a. Was this an independent SpaceX decision, a U.S. Government directive, or a coordinated effort between SpaceX and the U.S. Government?
 - b. What was the intent of the speed restrictions when authorized?
2. Was there any communication between the White House, the Pentagon, or other parts of the U.S. Government and SpaceX on the decision to implement speed restrictions?

¹ Jimmy Rushton, *No One's Owning Up to Throttling Ukraine's Military Starlink, and That's Telling*, KYIV INDEPENDENT (Oct. 15, 2026), <https://kyivindependent.com/no-ones-owning-up-to-crippling-ukraines-military-starlink/>

² Constant Méheut, *Ukraine's Vulnerability Grows as Satellite Use Is Restricted and Russia Escalates*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 14, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/10/14/business/starshield-spacex-ukraine-starlink-satellites-musk.html>

³ Miranda Nazzaro, *Musk Clarifies Starshield Restrictions*, THE HILL (Oct. 14, 2026), <https://thehill.com/policy/technology/6148910-musk-clarifies-starshield-restrictions/>

3. Was there any communication between the White House, the Pentagon, or other parts of the U.S. Government and Russia on a decision to restrict Starshield services for Ukraine prior to any directive to SpaceX to implement such speed limitations?
4. Were the operational consequences of restricting Starshield services for Ukraine assessed before the decision took effect, including potential impacts on Ukrainian forces and/or their air defense capabilities?
5. Why were Ukrainian forces not given advanced notice of this restriction?

We will not allow your Administration to abandon our commitment to Ukraine by siding with Putin over the Ukrainian people and undermining their fundamental right to defend their sovereignty and freedom.

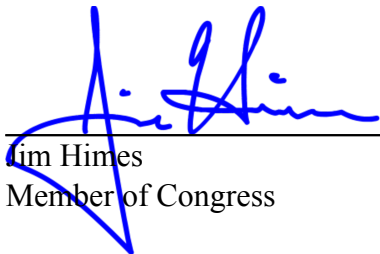
Sincerely,



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Pete Hegseth, Secretary of Defense.