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Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

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October 22, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

I write to follow-up on my letter to you in which I asked that you “investigate U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross for possible crimes committed in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001, under which it is illegal to make false statements or representations with respect to documents required by law to be submitted to Congress.” In that letter, I explained how Secretary Ross lied to me during sworn testimony about his communications with the White House regarding his decision to introduce a citizenship question on the decennial census.

It has come to my attention that in your prepared remarks to be delivered at a Heritage Foundation event on Monday, October 15th, you characterized a district court’s allowance of a deposition of Secretary Ross as “outrageous discovery,” notwithstanding the court’s finding that Secretary Ross’s “intent and credibility” were “squarely at issue.”¹ In making such public remarks, you also conspicuously ignored the record contained in my letter demonstrating Secretary Ross’s attempt to conceal his discussion with Steven Bannon on the subject of the citizenship question while testifying to members of Congress. As a former member of Congress, I am sure you fully appreciate the gravity of a sitting cabinet secretary brazenly lying to Congress.

Because your statements reflect clear bias on the matter of Secretary Ross’s conduct while seeking to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, I ask that you recuse yourself from the investigation I have requested and ensure that any Department of Justice examination of the matter in question is performed in an independent manner.

¹ *New York Immigration Coal. v. U.S. Dep’t of Commerce*, No. 18-CV-5025 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 17, 2018).

Thank you for your time; I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng
Member of Congress