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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 29, 2022

The Honorable Christopher Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray,

As you are aware, the 2018 Schoharie limousine crash was this country's worst transportation disaster in decades. This senseless tragedy cost the lives of 18 people from Upstate New York and was wholly preventable. Subsequent developments since that tragic day have further proved that this crash should never have happened.

Statewide reporting has brought to the public's attention serious concerns surrounding the owner of the limousine company, Shahed Hussein, a longtime informant of the FBI for prominent antiterrorism cases, and his multiple run-ins with the law and shady business dealings while working with the FBI.<sup>1</sup> During his time as an informant, Hussein is said to have lied on tax returns and immigration papers, committed bankruptcy fraud, refused to pay property taxes, and falsified safety inspection reports at Prestige Limousine that would have prevented this tragedy.<sup>2</sup> Further, his son, who himself operated a number of the day-to-day operations of the limousine business, may have referenced Hussein's work for the FBI to intimidate regulators and law enforcement.<sup>3</sup>

The Schoharie limo tragedy could have been avoided had a blind eye not been turned on this FBI informant, his associates, and their history of breaking the law. If these circumstances weren't troubling enough, following the tragedy, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) was denied access to evidence and the crash site, and Hussein's son—whose prior disregard for the law led to this tragedy—was offered a plea agreement that included no jail time.<sup>4</sup>

The families of the 18 people killed in this tragedy deserve answers to questions surrounding the deaths of their loved ones and the FBI informant at the center of this tragedy. Furthermore,

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Larry Rulison, "Tonko asks FBI for details about informant who owned limo in Schoharie disaster," Albany Times Union, Feb. 1, 2022, available at <https://www.timesunion.com/business/article/Tonko-asks-FBI-for-details-about-informant-who-16822345.php?IPID=Times-Union-limo-crash-spotlight>.

<sup>2</sup> Ben Ryder Howe, "13,000 Pounds at 118 Miles Per Hour," *Intelligencer*, Jan. 19, 2022, available at <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/limo-crash-ny-fbi-informant.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Larry Rulison, "Records reveal mysterious life of FBI informant Shahed Hussain," Albany Times Union, Oct. 31, 2018, available at <https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Who-is-FBI-informant-Shahed-Hussain-13351511.php>.

<sup>4</sup> Howe, *supra* note 2.

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Congress is constitutionally entitled to information regarding the FBI's relationship with Shahed Hussein and its knowledge of Hussein's criminal activities. As such, we request an official response to the following questions:

1. Was the FBI aware of Shahed Hussein's violation of numerous laws while engaged in activities unrelated to any case or investigation he was informing on?
2. Did the FBI ever intervene to protect Shahed Hussein from prosecution for any unrelated violations of the law?
3. Was the FBI aware that Shahed Hussein's associates would reference his work for the FBI to intimidate regulators and law enforcement? If so, how did the FBI respond?
4. Was the FBI aware that Shahed Hussein's businesses, and Prestige Limousine in particular, were in repeated violation of New York State laws and regulations?
5. When Prestige Limousine was involved the 2018 crash, was the FBI informed? If so, when, and by whom?
6. Did the FBI, in any way, involve itself in the investigation of the 2018 crash?
7. Was the FBI involved, in any way, in the trial of Shahed Hussein's son, to include securing his plea deal?

In addition to your prompt response to these questions, we also demand the FBI turn over all documents related to Shahed Hussein, including any documents and correspondence related to the investigation and trial of the 2018 accident involving Shahed Hussein's son and Prestige Limousine.

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than April 12, 2022. We appreciate your prompt compliance and look forward to receiving the requested information and documentation.

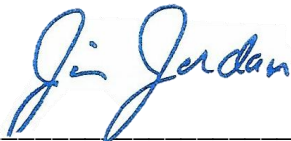
Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress  
House Permanent Select  
Committee on Intelligence



Michael R. Turner  
Ranking Member  
House Permanent Select  
Committee on Intelligence



Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Judiciary

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