

CONGRESSIONAL INTEGRITY PROJECT

April 8, 2024

Omar Ashmawy
Chief Counsel and Staff Director
Office of Congressional Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
P.O. Box 895
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Request for Information About James Comer's Reported Book Deal

Dear Mr. Ashmawy:

I respectfully request that the Office of Congressional Ethics provide information about whether Representative James Comer has requested approval for his reported book deal and if so, what the status is of that request.

Recent reporting revealed that Representative Comer has been in talks with at least one publisher regarding a book on his impeachment inquiry into President Biden.¹ Representative Comer and his Republican colleagues have spent the past 15 months relentlessly investigating the president and his family and failed to find any evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden let alone anything impeachable.

Throughout his entire investigation, Representative Comer has used his role as Chairman of the House Oversight Committee for personal and political gain. He has been a frequent guest on conservative news channels pushing conspiracy theories and lies about his investigation and has used this impeachment inquiry to fundraise for his campaign.² The new reporting about a potential book deal is troubling as it appears Representative Comer is planning on using his unique position as Oversight Chair to turn a profit.

Under House Rule 25, cl. 3(b), Members may not “receive copyright royalties under a contract . . . unless that contract is first approved by the Standards Committee.”³ As Representative Comer continues to hold hearings and attempts to build the case to impeach President Biden, the American people deserve to know the extent to which he is benefiting financially. It is clear already that he has

¹ Stephan Neukam, *Scoop: Comer discusses book deal amid Biden probe*, Axios (Mar. 29, 2024), <https://www.axios.com/2024/03/29/comer-book-deal-biden-probe>.

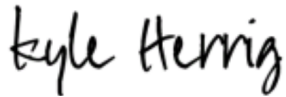
² David Catanese, *As he targeted Joe Biden, Comer raised \$1.5 million from contributors, new data shows*, McClatchy, <https://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article284956732.html>.

³ Rules of the House of Representatives, Rule 25, clause 3(b).

a political motive to impeach the President and it should be revealed if he has a financial motive as well.

This is all the more important to get to the bottom of because Representative Comer is chair of the House Oversight Committee and has not only the obligation to comply with House rules like any other member, but also to set an example for other Members. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Herrig". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kyle Herrig, Executive Director

Congressional Integrity Project

80 M Street SE

Washington, DC 20003

CC: Representative James Comer