

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

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January 6, 2026

Mr. Brian Baccus
Chief Executive Officer
Altadena Talks Foundation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Baccus:

In January 2025, deadly wildfires devastated and wreaked havoc in the state of California.¹ In response to the wildfires, an organization called FireAid held a benefit concert raising \$100 million, which the organization promised to send directly to people affected by the wildfires.² According to available information, the Altadena Talks Foundation received grant money from FireAid.³ As part of our oversight responsibilities, we request your voluntary cooperation with our inquiry.

According to an internal report commissioned by FireAid, Altadena Talks Foundation received \$100,000 in grants to support victims of the California wildfires.⁴ The Altadena Talks Foundation received funds for the purpose of “support[ing] the Toni Raines podcast and other shows”⁵ Toni Raines is a “systems administrator consultant specializing in software for searching, monitoring, and analyzing machine-generated data.”⁶ Raines is heavily involved in the tech industry, but discussed the California wildfires on her podcast, thereby receiving a FireAid

¹ William L Jeunesse, *California Wildfire Victims Left Wondering Where \$100M Went Following FireAid Benefit Concert*, FOX NEWS, (July 25, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/california-wildfire-victims-left-wondering-where-100m-went-following-fireaid-benefit-concert>.

² Maria Sherman, *FireAid, the Massive Benefit Concert to Help LA Fire Victims, Came Together Quickly. Here's How*, Assoc. Press (Jan. 28, 2025); *Questions and Controversy About FireAid Funds*, AXS TV, (July 29, 2025), <https://axs.tv/news-story/questions-and-controversy-about-fireaid-funds/>.

³ Hannah Nightingale, *Funds from Fire Aid concert went to non-profits- not LA wildfire victims: report*, THE POST MILLENNIAL, (July 22, 2025), <https://thepostmillennial.com/funds-from-fire-aid-concert-went-to-non-profits-not-la-wildfire-victims-report/>; Latham & Watkins, *FireAid Investigative Report as of September 8, 2025*, (Sept. 8, 2025), https://www.fireaidla.org/assets/press-releases/pdfs/fireaid_investigative_report_09-08-2025.pdf.

⁴ *FireAid Documents List of Grantees*, CONGRESSMAN KEVIN KILEY (last accessed Dec. 8, 2025), <https://kiley.house.gov/fireaid-documents>.

⁵ FAHJC-00001483.

⁶ *About the host Antoinette “Toni Raines”*, ALTADENA TALKS, (accessed Oct. 8, 2025), <https://www.altadenatalks.com/toniraines.html>.

grant.⁷ However, it remains unclear how and if this FireAid money went to directly aid wildfire victims.

On January 8, 2025, then-President Joe Biden approved a disaster declaration for the California fires, making federal funds available to victims and authorizing federal agencies to assist in the recovery efforts.⁸ The nation has an important interest in assisting victims of federally declared disaster and in discouraging potential fraud or misuse of charitable funds solicited to help these victims. It is critical in this case that money raised for fire recovery efforts go directly to victims of the California fires. Therefore, as part of the Committee's oversight, we respectfully ask that you provide the following documents and information:

1. A detailed breakdown of all money received from FireAid, directly and indirectly, including the amount, date, recipient, and purpose of each expenditure; and
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to FireAid for the period January 1, 2025, to the present.

Please produce all documents and information as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 20, 2026.

The Supreme Court has recognized that Congress has a "broad and indispensable" power to conduct oversight, which "encompasses inquiries into the administration of existing laws, studies of proposed laws, and surveys in our social, economic or political system for the purpose of enabling Congress to remedy them."⁹ Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives the Judiciary Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of matters concerning criminal law and fraud in order to inform potential legislative reform.¹⁰

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress


Jim Jordan
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ The White House, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Approves California Major Disaster Declaration (Jan. 8, 2025).

⁹ *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP*, 591 U.S. 848, 862 (2020) (internal quotation marks omitted).

¹⁰ Rules of the House of Representatives, 119th Cong., R. X (2025); 18 U.S.C.A. § 1341.