

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Pam Bondi:

Yesterday, Assistant Attorney General Gail Slater of the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division announced her resignation on social media, with subsequent reports indicating that she was terminated. Gail Slater is a deeply respected antitrust leader, and her abrupt removal deals a significant blow to the faithful execution of our antitrust laws. It further undermines confidence in the Department's independence at a moment when Americans need assurance that enforcement decisions are guided by law, not politics.

The timing of this decision, particularly in light of imminent enforcement actions and pending litigation, not only raises serious concerns about potential improper influence or political intervention but also deepens the cloud already hanging over prior actions that have undermined confidence in the Division's independence. It comes on the heels of the resignation of Mark Hamer, Ms. Slater's second-in-command, and reinforces a troubling pattern in which senior Antitrust Division officials appear to be sidelined when their enforcement decisions conflict with the interests of President Trump or his allies. Last August, Bill Rinner and Roger Alford were forced out after opposing a proposed settlement in the \$14 billion Hewlett Packard Enterprise-Juniper Networks merger, an arrangement widely reported to have been negotiated outside the traditional Antitrust Division enforcement channels by political operatives, including your former Chief of Staff, Chad Mizelle, and MAGA-aligned lobbyists Mike Davis and Arthur Schwartz.

For these reasons, we have serious concerns that Ms. Slater's absence places the Department's case against Live Nation/Ticketmaster for illegally inflating ticket prices at extreme risk of political interference and leaves the Division's review of the Netflix-Warner Bros. merger and Paramount's hostile bid vulnerable to undue influence at a critical moment. These concerns are not unfounded. Earlier this week, Semafor reported that Live Nation executives and lobbyists had been negotiating with senior officials at the Department, allegedly circumventing the Antitrust Division, to avert a trial over whether the company operates an illegal monopoly that has driven up concert prices. According to the report, individuals involved in or connected to these discussions include Kellyanne Conway, Mike Davis, and Richard Grenell. Taken together, these developments raise grave concerns that enforcement decisions are being shaped through backchannel negotiations and political pressure, rather than through the independent and even-handed application of the law.

The American people deserve to know whether the rule of law, not political loyalty or personal gain, is guiding these decisions. Accordingly, please provide the following:

1. All information and documents concerning communications between any Department of Justice official or employee and the following individuals or categories of individuals: Mike Davis; Kellyanne Conway; Richard Grennell; Michael Rapino; Larry Ellison; David Ellison; any lobbyists or representatives acting on behalf of corporate parties with interests before the Antitrust Division; President Donald J. Trump; Stephen Miller; and any other White House or Administration officials. This request encompasses communications conducted through official or personal devices or accounts where official business was discussed.
2. The information and documents requested shall include, but are not limited to, communications relating to (a) the removal of Gail Slater, (b) the Department's litigation involving Live Nation/Ticketmaster, or (c) the Department's review of the proposed Netflix-Warner Bros. transaction or Paramount's hostile bid. For each communication, please identify the date, participants, and mode of communication (including email, text message, phone call, video conference, messaging application, or in-person meeting).
3. All information and documents reflecting internal discussions, deliberations, or decision-making within the Department of Justice regarding the removal of Gail Slater, including briefing materials, decision memoranda, draft statements, calendar entries, and communications among political appointees and career staff.

This request is made pursuant to Congress's constitutional oversight responsibilities and Congress's authority to conduct investigations and obtain information necessary to legislate and ensure executive branch accountability. Please preserve all records, documents, communications, and electronically stored information responsive to this request, including emails, text messages, messaging applications, internal memoranda, personnel files, training records, and investigative materials. This preservation obligation applies to all relevant custodians and systems and remains in effect until the Senator's inquiry is fully resolved.

Please respond to this request no later than February 17, 2026.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator