

Elon Musk wants federal workers to list their weekly accomplishments. What have Ohio Congress members done?

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WASHINGTON, D. C. - In a [Wednesday morning speech on the House of Representatives floor](#), U.S. Rep. Shontel Brown criticized “unelected, unaccountable, unvetted, unconfirmed billionaire Elon Musk” for prompting an email on Saturday that asked all federal government employees to respond with five bullet points explaining what they did the previous week.

The email gave employees until 11:59 p.m. Monday to respond, and told them not to send any classified information, links or attachments.

Musk [followed up with a social media post](#) that warned failure to respond would be taken as a resignation, and others that said federal workers were merely being asked to do “[what everyone else does](#).”

President Donald Trump expressed support for Musk’s move, telling reporters that “we have this massive government with millions of people, and nobody knows who’s working for the government and who’s not.” The email’s purpose was to determine which federal workers exist, Trump added.

“I think it was actually, there was a lot of genius in sending it,” Trump said Monday. “We’re trying to find out if people are working.”

Unions that represent federal employees [questioned the email’s legality](#) with American Federation of Government Employees President Everett B. Kelley telling the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that the union believes employees “have no obligation to respond to this plainly unlawful email absent other lawful direction.” He also asked that OPM rescind the email and apologize.

Randy Erwin, who heads the National Federation of Federal Employees, [advised its members](#) to reply to the email with their list of accomplishments, if instructed to do

so by supervisors, as failure to comply with a supervisor's instruction could lead to discipline for insubordination.

"This is a welcome opportunity to shine a light on your achievements and highlight the value of your work," said an advisory from Erwin. "Be professional in your wording. Be truthful in your email. Be prepared to back up what you state. We suggest you include assignments that are clearly related to the critical job elements in your performance plan and/or that are reflected in your position description."

Asking employees to provide bullet points to describe what they did over the past week is not a common thing for employers to do, according to Case Western Reserve University law professor [Sharona Hoffman](#).

Hoffman says that she didn't have to provide her work accomplishments to anyone but her supervisor during the six years she worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the 1990s.

"I got reviews from my direct supervisor where we would go over how I was doing, but others in the federal government never asked for any information directly from me," Hoffman recalls.

She says it might be appropriate for upper management to ask employees what's going on "in a benign way" if they feel they're being inadequately supervised, but said it should not be unexpected and abrupt, with a deadline and a threat of job loss.

She said the demand for emailed feedback might have a disproportionately negative impact on people who lack the skills to know what to say in such an email, and that the tactic could present privacy and security breaches.

"You don't have any control of what individual employees are going to say when they're trying to defend their jobs," said Hoffman. "So there could be security breaches, there could be privacy breaches, there could be breaches of the attorney client privilege. There are lots of concerns over what employees who are panicked about being fired are going to say in these emails."

She did not think the tactic would be widely embraced by employers, given that supervisors are supposed to review their employees' work, and put time and thought into those evaluations.

"Telling people that by tomorrow at midnight, you have to come up with five bullet points of things that I think are true accomplishments, or else you're gone, that is a terrible approach," says Hoffman. "Private employers want to keep their employees,

presumably, and they don't want huge morale problems, so I don't think this will happen broadly."

Democrats like Warrensville Heights' Brown regarded the email as irresponsible bullying. She was among more than 100 Democrats in Congress who [signed onto a Monday letter](#) that urged the heads of 24 federal agencies to clarify that federal employees should not be required to respond to the email, and that nonresponse doesn't constitute resignation.

The letter, which was also signed by Cincinnati's Greg Landsman and Columbus' Joyce Beatty, noted that some federal agencies, including the Department of State, the National Security Agency, and even the Federal Bureau of Investigation led by Kash Patel have already clarified that OPM and Musk have no authority to issue these threats. Several of the departments did not want their employees to respond for fear of jeopardizing national security by disclosing their activities.

"Neither Musk's tweet nor the email account for the fact that many federal workers will not be receiving this email in time to respond by the deadline as they may be away from their secure workstation, on medical leave, or away from their email for completely justifiable reasons," the letter said. "He also, disturbingly, appears to be unaware that many federal employees are locked out of their systems due to DOGE's ongoing intrusion into federal information technology infrastructure.

Brown's [House of Representatives floor speech](#) facetiously listed 5 things Musk did the previous week. She noted that the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) that he's spearheading "[deleted the five biggest spending cuts](#) it bragged about just last week, because nearly half of those savings didn't exist." She said more than [20 employees resigned from the DOGE effort](#) because they didn't want to jeopardize Americans sensitive data or dismantle critical public services.

She said one of Musk's companies [secured a lucrative FAA contract](#), describing that as a conflict of interest. She said the DOGE effort [has fired 6,000 veterans](#) from government jobs, "because, apparently a disabled vet's salary is wasteful, but \$4.5 trillion in billionaire tax cuts is necessary." She also criticized the DOGE effort for firing bird flu experts, nuclear safety officers and IRS workers right in the middle of tax season.

"Before Elon Musk demands five justifications from VA nurses in Cleveland, maybe he should justify his own job instead of asking nurses, firefighters, air traffic controllers and federal scientists to justify their jobs," said Brown. "Let's ask the

billionaire to justify his because I promise you, the American people won't need more than five reasons to fire him."

Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan, a Champaign County Republican who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, praised the tactic, saying he could easily put together a five point list of the things Jordan did over the past week.

"If you can't name what you're doing, maybe it's because you're not doing much and not really serving the taxpayers like you're supposed to," Jordan told Fox News.

Cleveland.com reached out to members of Congress who represent Northeast Ohio for a bulleted 5-point list of the things they did last week. Jordan's office supplied nine of them. U.S. Rep. Dave Joyce's office supplied a statement about his activities, and a list of his planned activities for Wednesday. U.S. Rep. Bob Latta's office supplied his schedule for the previous week.

We will update the list as we get them:

U.S. Sen. Jon Husted, R-Columbus area:

1. Sen. Husted spent all night on February 20-21 voting until 4:45 am on the Senate floor to pass a budget resolution that would help secure the border from criminal illegal aliens, strengthen our national defense, and empower American energy in order to fight inflation.
2. Sen. Husted personally took meetings with numerous Ohio employers.
3. Sen. Husted personally took meetings with Ohioans to hear from them directly, and his team took a number of additional meetings.
4. Sen. Husted met with 5 Trump Administration nominees.
5. Sen. Husted presided over the Senate floor for hours.

U.S. Sen. Bernie Moreno, R-Westlake:

1. Unveiled a historic, one-of-a-kind bill to reform the auto industry and ensure that cars sold in America are made in America.
2. Wrote a letter to an Ohio school board that is threatening to violate the law

3. Hosted a group of Israeli children who lost their parents in Hamas' brutal attack on October 7th.
4. Gave an update to media outlets statewide about the work we are doing for Ohio in DC.
5. Voted on 25 amendments to pass a budget resolution to put America first.

U.S. Rep. Dave Joyce, R-South Russell:

"It's important that the American people have confidence that their government is working for them. To this effect, my office has several internal and external reporting systems. One of these is a weekly newsletter to subscribers detailing important highlights from my work in D.C. and in Ohio. I encourage anyone with questions to go to my website to sign up to receive it. In the interim, here's a sampling of what I have scheduled today:

1. Meeting with a Senate counterpart on our joint nursing legislation,
2. Attending a classified defense briefing.
3. Reviewing and voting on four pieces of legislation.
4. Participating in a working group on digital asset regulation.
5. Hosting a meeting on land conservation with a group from Northeast Ohio
6. Meeting with a Small Business Administration certified small manufacturer from Ohio focused on border patrol equipment.

U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Champaign County :

1. Met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel.
2. Met with the Speaker of Israel's Knesset – Amir Ohana
3. Met with the leader of Israel's opposition party – Yair Lapid
4. Visited the Nir Oz kibbutz in southern Israel where Hamas attacked on October 7th
5. Traveled to the Lebanese and Syrian borders to learn how the IDF is managing Israel's border.
6. Visited Metula, Israel – the site of Hezbollah's attacks against Israel.
7. Visited an Iron Dome site, which protects Israel from rocket attacks.

8. Met with the United Arab Emirates ambassador to Israel.

9. And to top it off, our incredible district staff held [office hours](#) in our district where constituents could come get assistance from our office with any issues they are having with the federal government.

U.S. Rep. Shontel Brown, D-Warrensville Heights:

1. [Voted against the Republican Budget](#) that cuts Medicaid, SNAP, Head Start and other key programs in order to give a tax cut to the wealthy.
2. [Hosted a Town Hall in Cleveland](#) with more than 700 constituents. Answered questions on legislation, constituent services, and Trump's executive orders for over an hour.
3. [Joined rally in support of federal workers in Cleveland](#) and voiced my support for civil servants in Northeast Ohio. [I also joined over 100 Democratic colleagues in a letter](#) to the defending federal workers from Musk's unauthorized email threats.
4. Authored two important letters to protect the benefits and personal information of constituents: I wrote to Governor DeWine urging him to reconsider [implementing Medicaid work requirements](#) that would lead to thousands of people in Northeast Ohio losing coverage, and [wrote to President Trump to cease all DOGE activities that create serious cybersecurity vulnerabilities](#) and risk disclosure of sensitive information.
5. Cosponsored two new bills to stop Musk: the Department of Education Protection Act (H.R. 433), which prohibits restructuring the Department of Education, and the Ending DOGE Conflicts Act (H.R. 1321) requiring Musk to file a personal financial disclosure so that we can address the obvious conflicts of interest between his business interests and DOGE actions.

U.S. Rep. Bob Latta, R- Bowling Green:

On Monday, Congressman Latta was in Henry and Paulding Counties. There, he:

- met with the CEO of the Henry County Hospital,

- stopped by the Northwest Signal newspaper to answer their questions,
- [visited with students and faculty](#) at Northwest State Community College,
- [met with the Paulding Putnam Electric Co-op](#) to meet the new CEO and with over 50 associates to discuss energy issues as Chair of the Energy Subcommittee, and
- stopped by the Paulding Country Progress newspaper to [answer their questions](#).

On Tuesday, Congressman Latta was in Van Wert County. There, he:

- met with the Celina Insurance Group,
- stopped by The Daily Standard newspaper to answer their questions,
- met with Central Insurance Company,
- [visited](#) Van Wert High School to speak with students,
- stopped by the Van Wert Independent newspaper to [answer their questions](#), and
- stopped by the Marsh Foundation.

On Wednesday, Congressman Latta was in Crawford County. There, he:

- visited Wynford High School to speak with students,
- [received a tour and on-the-ground manufacturing update](#) from Bucyrus Blades, and
- visited the Hord Family Farms.

On Thursday, Congressman Latta was in Wood County. There, he:

- met with the Ohio Defense Initiative to hear about their efforts to support the Ohio National Guard and to help grow jobs in Ohio, and
- he conducted an interview with the Electric Power Supply Association to discuss his work to make sure we increase energy production to lower costs for all Americans.

On Friday, Congressman Latta was in Lorain County. There, he:

- participated in the [Wellington Kiwanis Pancake breakfast](#) to help give back to the local community,

- spoke with local officials,
- received an [in-depth tour](#) of [Lorain County JVS](#), which is one of the largest vocational schools in Ohio,
- met with the Mayor of Sheffield Lake, and
- received a tour of Lubrizol Plastics.

U.S. Rep. Max Miller, R-Bay Village:

1. Visited with the Cleveland Speech and Hearing Center
2. Joined local business leaders and community members in Rocky River to talk about fiscal responsibility, cutting taxes, and reducing burdensome business regulations
3. Met with Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio
4. Met with the CEO of the Cleveland Metroparks
5. Met with the Mayors of Rocky River, Middleburg Heights, and Fairview Park

And when you ask again next week I have:

1. Participated in a House Ways & Means Trade subcommittee hearing
2. Honored (Parma Heights police) Chief Tanya Czack on the House Floor
3. Passed a budget resolution
4. Participated in a Ways & Means markup
5. Met with constituents to discuss a range of issues from aviation to rare diseases.

And it's only Wednesday. See? It's really not that hard.