

Divesting from Musk lobbyists: sample letter to college or university

Subject: Immediate Review Requested: Lobbying Firm Conflicts Tied to Elon Musk and DOGE

Dear [Provost / President / Office of Government Relations / Ethics Committee],

I am writing to raise urgent concerns about a serious ethical and strategic conflict that may affect our institution's advocacy work and public credibility.

A new [database](#) released by F Minus, a lobbying accountability organization, identifies lobbying firms that simultaneously represent Elon Musk's companies and universities, research institutions, and public agencies that are being directly harmed by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and the broader Trump policy agenda. Alarming, our university is one of the institutions that shares representation with a Musk-affiliated firm.

In this context, it is critical for us to evaluate whether continuing relationships with these conflicted lobbying firms might:

Undermine our ability to effectively advocate for federal research funding, academic freedom, and international partnerships.

Send mixed messages to faculty, students, and the public about our values.

Inadvertently legitimize or shield harmful political agendas from scrutiny.

Therefore, I urge the university to take the following steps:

Audit all current lobbying and government relations firms for any representation of Musk-owned companies.

Disclose findings to the campus community and consider open dialogue on the issue.

End relationships with any firm that refuses to choose between Musk companies and our institution.

Higher education is under threat from coordinated attacks on funding, autonomy, and scientific integrity. We cannot afford to be neutral — or complicit — in lobbying arrangements that erode the very mission we seek to defend.

Thank you for your attention and leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Department or Faculty Role]

[Contact Information]