



September 10, 2025

Brito PLLC
2121 Ponce de Leon, Suite 650
Coral Gables, FL 33134
Attn: Alejandro Brito
abrito@britopllc.com

Re: Trump is a “corrupt and sick pedophile” Alleged Defamation Letter Dated
August 24, 2025

Mr. Brito:

I write on behalf of The Lincoln Project and Rick Wilson (“Wilson”) in response to your letter dated August 24, 2025. Specifically, I write to deny the allegations of false and defamatory statements made against Donald Trump (“Trump”).

First, it is necessary to point out that you not only cherry-picked a statement made by Wilson on a video shared via his substack (the “Corrupt and Sick Pedophile Video”)¹ and took it out of all context, but you have also misquoted him. Your letter claims that he said, “It distracts them from the fact that Donald Trump is a corrupt and sick pedophile.” That is not what Wilson said.

Talking about the FBI raid on John Bolton’s home, what Wilson actually said was: “They’ll use this to give the MAGA something to crow over because it distracts them from thinking about the fact that Donald Trump is a corrupt and sick pedophile.”²

Despite your client’s predilection for changing numbers, quotations, and hurricane paths to suit his needs, you must understand that courts will not accept erroneous statements just because he says so. Actual evidence and accuracy still govern judicial proceedings.

When the Corrupt and Sick Pedophile Video is accurately quoted, it is obvious that Wilson was characterizing the thoughts and beliefs of Trump’s MAGA supporters,

¹ Rick Wilson, *LIVE: The Bolton Raid*, Rick Wilson’s Against All Enemies (YouTube, August 22, 2025) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMnNsBeAmPY&t=8s>.

² *Id.* at 17:31.

many of whom have voiced concerns about Trump, particularly over the past few months. As discussed in our next point, that timing is not random.

Second, it is extraordinary that in a four-page letter taking umbrage over a statement alleging that some in the MAGA world believe Trump is a “corrupt and sick pedophile” you failed to mention Jeffrey Epstein (“Epstein”), a convicted sex trafficker and pedophile who referred to himself as Trump’s “closest friend for 10 years.”³

Neither Epstein nor Trump’s relationship with Epstein is mentioned a single time in your letter. Such a deliberate oversight underscores the weakness in your argument. It is Trump’s long, documented relationship with Epstein, and Trump’s refusal to release documents related to the investigation of Epstein (the “Epstein Files”) that has led to a myriad of beliefs, allegations and outrage across the world, including in MAGA itself, over the past few months.⁴

It is especially notable since Trump promised the public and MAGA that he would declassify the Epstein Files during a FOX News interview while campaigning for the presidency.⁵ Since taking office, he has failed to do so. To the contrary, Trump and his administration have refused to release the Epstein Files.⁶ It has been publicly reported that in a May meeting, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi and her Deputy Attorney General, Todd Blanche (Trump’s former personal defense attorney), informed Trump that his name appeared multiple times in the Epstein Files and that they did not plan to release any more documents.⁷ This led to global speculation about the reasons your client’s administration refused to declassify and release the Epstein Files. Those opinions, including that Trump is a corrupt and sick pedophile, were widely shared by many people through many mediums well before the release of the statement you identified in your letter.

Beyond the failure to release the Epstein Files, Trump’s own actions and statements, as reported by multiple different media sources over the course of decades, have provided adequate factual background to believe he is a pedophile. For example, the following have all been publicly reported:

³ Hugh Dougherty. *The Predator and the President*. The Daily Beast (November 2, 2024; Updated June 5, 2025). <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/JU/JU08/20250227/117951/HHRG-119-JU08-20250227-SD006-U6.pdf>

⁴ Tess Owen. *How the Trump administration’s handling of the Epstein files became a vehicle for QAnon*. The Guardian (July 15, 2025). <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jul/15/trump-epstein-files-maga>

⁵ *Full exclusive interview with former President Donald Trump*. FOX News (June 3, 2024). <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6354224797112>

⁶ Aaron Blake. *Timeline suggests Trump team changed its tune on Epstein files after Trump was told he was in them*. CNN (July 24, 2025). <https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/24/politics/trump-epstein-files-pivot-timeline>

⁷ *Trump was told by Bondi his name appeared multiple times in Epstein files*. ABC News (July 23, 2025). <https://abcnews.go.com/US/trump-told-bondi-appeared-multiple-times-epstein-files/story?id=124014441>

- A New York jury found Trump liable for sexual abuse.⁸
- When asked by Howard Stern if he had an “age limit” for girls he would date, Trump initially said “No, I have no age” and then said, “I mean, I have age limit. I don’t want to be like Congressman Foley, with, you know, 12-year-olds.”⁹
- Trump once told 14-year-old girls, “In a couple of years, I’ll be dating you.”¹⁰
- Trump held cocaine-fueled parties where wealthy men would hook up with models as young as 15 in the New York Plaza Hotel he owned.¹¹
- Five women claimed that Trump walked into a dressing room during the 1997 Miss Teen USA beauty pageant while the contestants, some as young as 15-years-old, were changing and unclothed. He told the teens, “Don’t worry, ladies, I’ve seen it all before.”¹²
- After author Michael Wolff interviewed Epstein, he told a reporter, “that the pedophile showed off photos of Trump with topless young women sitting in his lap.”¹³
- Speaking about Epstein, Trump told New York Magazine, “I’ve known Jeff for 15 years. Terrific guy. He’s a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side.”¹⁴

⁸ Larry Neumeister. *Judge upholds the \$5 million verdict against Trump in E. Jean Carroll’s sex abuse and defamation case*. PBS News (July 19, 2023).

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/judge-upholds-the-5-million-verdict-against-trump-in-e-jean-carrolls-sex-abuse-and-defamation-case>

⁹ Andrew Kaczynski, Chris Massie & Nate McDermott. *Donald Trump to Howard Stern: It’s okay to call my daughter a ‘piece of ass’*. CNN (October 9, 2016). <https://www.cnn.com/2016/10/08/politics/trump-on-howard-stern>

¹⁰ Seema Mehta. *Tribune Archive: Trump told 14-year-old girls, ‘In a couple of years, I’ll be dating you’*. Los Angeles Times (October 13, 2016).

<https://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-donald-trump-girls-chicago-tribune-archive-20161013-story.html>

¹¹ Times of Israel Staff. *Report: Trump hosted cocaine-fueled parties with underage girls*. The Times of Israel (October 25, 2016).

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-trump-hosted-cocaine-fueled-parties-with-underage-girls/>

¹² Kendall Taggart, Jessica Garrison & Jessica Testa. *Teen Beauty Queens Say Trump Walked in on Them Changing*. BuzzFeedNews (October 12, 2016).

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/kendalltaggart/teen-beauty-queens-say-trump-walked-in-on-them-changing>

¹³ Hugh Daugherty. *The Predator and the President*. The Daily Beast (November 2, 2024; Updated June 5, 2025).

<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/JU/JU08/20250227/117951/HHRG-119-JU08-20250227-SD006-U6.pdf>

¹⁴ Landon Thomas Jr. *Jeffrey Epstein: International Moneyman of Mystery*. New York Magazine (October 28, 2002).

https://nymag.com/nymetro/news/people/n_7912/#print

- As reported by the Wall Street Journal, Trump sent a “bawdy” letter to Epstein for Epstein’s 50th birthday. It included a hand-drawn outline of a naked woman and phrases like, “We have certain things in common, Jeffrey,” “Enigmas never age, have you noticed that?” and “may every day be another wonderful secret.”¹⁵
- During a deposition, after being asked if ever socialized with Trump in the presence of females under the age of 18, rather than answering in the negative, Epstein asserted his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination.¹⁶
- Trump’s administration fired the lead prosecutor for Epstein’s co-conspirator, convicted child sex-trafficker Ghislaine Maxwell (“Maxwell”).¹⁷
- After meeting with Blanche - again, Trump’s former criminal defense attorney - who had not participated in Maxwell’s prosecution, Maxwell received a transfer from a Florida prison to a new minimum security facility in Texas.¹⁸
- Trump has refused to rule out pardoning Maxwell for her convictions related to child sex-trafficking, instead reiterating that “I’m allowed to give her a pardon.”¹⁹

This is a small, but representative sample of reporting about your client that could reasonably lead anyone, including Trump’s own MAGA supporters, to believe that Trump is a pedophile. All of that reporting took place prior to the statements made by Wilson in the Corrupt and Sick Pedophile Video.

¹⁵ Khadeeja Safdar & Joe Palazzolo. *Jeffre Epstein’s Friends Sent Him Bawdy Letters for a 50th Birthday Album. One Was From Donald Trump*. The Wall Street Journal (July 17, 2025). <https://www.wsj.com/politics/trump-jeffrey-epstein-birthday-letter-we-have-certain-things-in-common-f918d796?st=bhCa46> ; since publication of this article, the Epstein Estate provided a copy of the letter the House Oversight Committee and The Wall Street Journal, among other publications, have done thorough analysis documenting its likely authenticity. See Khadeefa Safdar, Joe Palazzolo & Kara Dapena. *A Visual Breakdown of the Trump Birthday Letter to Epstein*. The Wall Street Journal (September 8, 2025).

https://www.wsj.com/us-news/law/trump-jeffrey-epstein-letter-birthday-book-analysis-0bbeef6?mod=hp_lead_pos7

¹⁶ Ed Mazza. *Jeffrey Epstein Asked ABOUT Himself, Trump and Underage Girls in Resurfaced Video*. Yahoo!News (July 23, 2025). <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/jeffrey-epstein-asked-himself-trump-040012869.html>

¹⁷ Erica Orden. *Maurene Comey, daughter of James Comey and prosecutor of Jeffrey Epstein, is fired*. POLITICO (July 16, 2025). <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/07/16/maurene-comey-fired-doj-00458921>

¹⁸ Bernd Debusmann Jr.. *Ghislaine Maxwell moved to women’s prison in Texas*. BBC (August 1, 2025). <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czd049y2qymo>

¹⁹ Cheyanne M. Daniels. *Trump reiterates that he has the authority to pardon Ghislaine Maxwell*. POLITICO (July 28, 2025). <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/07/28/trump-ghislaine-maxwell-pardon-jeffrey-epstein-00479862>

Given that factual background, your legal claims cannot be supported. The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, which includes Florida, has routinely found that statements “supported by a multitude of previous reports” are not defamatory. *Moore v. Cecil*, 448 F. Supp. 3d 1144, 1169 (N.D. Ala. 2020). Furthermore, as the 11th Circuit recently reiterated, in Florida:

“A showing of actual malice requires ‘sufficient evidence to permit the conclusion that the defendant in fact entertained serious doubts as to the truth of his publicans,’ or that he ‘acted with a high degree of awareness of probable falsity. ‘Mere negligence’ is not enough. Instead, the speaker’s conduct must rise to the level of recklessness. Nor should actual malice be confused with ‘evil intent or a motive arising from spite or ill will. Speakers’ feelings about their subjects are irrelevant - all that matters are the speakers’ subjective beliefs about the truth of their own statements.”
Dershowitz v. Cable News Network, Inc., No. 23-11270 (11th Cir. 2025) (internal citations omitted).

Here, even under the inaccurate quotation you cited, if Wilson was making a statement about Trump rather than characterizing the thoughts of MAGA supporters, your arguments still fail. As long as Wilson had a subjective belief that the statements were true, especially in light of facts similar to those cited above rendering such a belief far from reckless, any defamation action against him would be dead on arrival.

Your Litigation Hold

The litigation hold you requested is overbroad, overburdensome, and includes nonrelevant documentation within its scope. As such, it is ineffective to serve the purposes you requested.

For example, your letter requests that The Lincoln Project preserve “... any and all other communications related to any current or planned publications by you regarding President Trump.” This request is so broad in scope it literally covers the vast majority of communications made by The Lincoln Project, whether or not they are related to the allegations you make. By the very nature of such an overbroad request it includes communications and documents that would be in no way relevant to any allegation you might make.

Despite your failure to properly notice a litigation hold, in good faith I have directed that no destruction of communications or documents that reference or are directly

related to the content or creation of the Corrupt and Sick Pedophile Video. Please note that The Lincoln Project, its directors, employees, and agents employ regular destruction policies and many communications or documents that would match this search criteria may have been destroyed prior to receiving your request. Regardless, I have directed that such policies be paused or that a thorough search of any communications or documents that fit the criteria above be searched, identified, and preserved to avoid destruction.

Counterclaims

Given the long, close relationship Trump had with convicted pedophile and sex-trafficker Epstein, your flailing attempt to defame The Lincoln Project and Wilson by dedicating a paragraph to discussion of John Weaver (“Weaver”) seems particularly cynical. Neither you nor your client has any factual basis for the claims you made in your letter, specifically that he is a “friend and business partner” of Wilson and intimating that he is somehow still connected to The Lincoln Project.

As has been widely reported, The Lincoln Project terminated its relationship with Weaver more than four years ago. He had been associated with The Lincoln Project for only about a year at that point. Furthermore, despite your attempted insinuation, none of the allegations against Weaver took place while he was affiliated with The Lincoln Project or with any person working with The Lincoln Project during his time associated with the organization.

But more telling, the differences between the relationship between Weaver, The Lincoln Project and Wilson versus Trump and Epstein underscore the weakness of your own case. First, unlike Epstein, to the best of our knowledge Weaver has never been charged or convicted of any crime, nor has any civil claim been brought against him, related to those allegations. In contrast Epstein and Maxwell were both charged and convicted of sex-trafficking children. Second, Wilson had never met Weaver before founding of The Lincoln Project, much less been his friend, but Trump maintained a decades long, close, well-documented relationship with Epstein and Maxwell. The contrast is stark.

Despite the inaccuracies and obvious attempt to smear the names of The Lincoln Project and Wilson, none of this would rise to the level of defamation without publication of the defamatory statement. However, between the time we received your letter on August 29, 2025, and this reply, The Lincoln Project has learned that the contents of the letter appear to have been distributed for public consumption. A day before your letter was sent, the far-right website Gateway Pundit published an article that made almost identical claims and references, including about Weaver.

Given that your client is the President of the United States he has access to the world's largest bully pulpit. In addition to the hundreds of millions of social media followers he has, media across the world report on what he says. Therefore, the damages to The Lincoln Project and Wilson are astronomical and likely run into the trillions of dollars.

Should litigation proceed, The Lincoln Project and Wilson will defend themselves with vigor and seek such damages, along with any recovery due to them under Florida's anti-SLAPP law. Wilson in particular is quite familiar with this law as Florida has recently upheld his anti-SLAPP claims against Trump's friend, Gen. Michael Flynn. We are confident in a similar outcome here.

Litigation Hold Notice to You, Trump, and Any Third-Party Agent

Given the potential counterclaims The Lincoln Project and Wilson have against your client, as well as our need to engage in discovery of the claims you have made, this letter serves as notice to you, to Trump, and to any employees, agents, and to any other person acting on behalf or in concert with either of you to preserve any and all evidence related in any way to discussion and creation of the letter you sent or its contents. You, your client, and any individual or organization within the above description are ordered not to destroy, conceal, or alter any paper or electronic files, records, physical evidence, and/or data relating in any way, no matter how remote, to creation and distribution of the information contained in your letter, including, but not limited to: (1) all communications between you or your client and any third party about your letter or its contents; (2) any and all documents referring to, reflection, or relation to communications between you, your client, and any third-parties or sources regarding letter or its contents; (3) any and all documents in any way related to your letter or its contents; (4) any and all documents or communications that in any way refer to or reference Epstein; and, (5) any and all documents or communications that in any way refer to or reference Maxwell. Further, as you know, truth is an absolute defense to a defamation claim, and so we also demand that you preserve any and all records relating in any way to the statement that Donald Trump is a pedophile, including records evincing any sexual conduct directed by Trump to any minor, investigations into such conduct, and any communication related to such conduct.

All documents, whether paper or electronic, should be maintained in their original, native format. This is necessary to ensure that any meta-data in electronic documents may be preserved. This preservation demand specifically encompasses any and all electronic documents, including but not limited to, all word-processed files, e-mails, spreadsheets, all databases, calendar entries, log files, text messages, phone records, social media posts or private messages (e.g. Signal, WhatsApp,

Twitter/X, Slack, Facebook, Instagram, Truth Social), and any other electronically stored and/or generated documents or files.

To the extent you believe any of these documents may be attorney-client privileged, please provide a privilege log documenting each document to which you claim privilege and the reason for such claim.

Resolution Proposal

Regardless of the inherent weakness in your argument, we understand that litigation can be long and costly for all sides. That is particularly true in a case of this nature where it would be necessary to depose Trump and multiple third parties. For example, it would be necessary to speak with Bondi (who is not Trump's personal lawyer, nor the attorney for him as the president, and consequently does not enjoy attorney-client privilege), Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, FBI Director Kash Patel, FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino, and White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles.

Furthermore, reviewing voluminous documents could drag discovery out far beyond the end of your client's current term in office.

We would like to make it clear that while Trump took the "L" on 34 felony counts rather than taking the stand in his own criminal defense trial, he will not have that option in any proceedings here. As you must be aware, in a civil case Trump can only avoid depositions and testifying at trial if he either (1) asserts his Fifth Amendment rights in relation to a crime that would be disclosed, or (2) is too feeble and infirm to testify. In the first instance, his failure to testify would give rise to a negative inference against him, all but proving our case. In the second instance, it seems likely that Vice-President J.D. Vance would need to brush up on the 25th Amendment, in the event he has not already done so, as would seem prudent.

To avoid such a protracted process for a man nearly 80 years old and so as to afford Trump the opportunity to provide our clients with the factual evidence that would be needed for them to fairly consider your request for a retraction, we propose the following:

- Trump will order and ensure the release of the Epstein Files held by any executive agency, including the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and,
- Trump will appear on The Lincoln Project Podcast for an hour to explain why people should not believe he is a corrupt and sick pedophile; and,

- After both conditions are met, the Corrupt and Sick Pedophile Video will be removed in the event that the information provided unexpectedly does not support the belief of some of Trump's MAGA supporters that he is a pedophile; and,
- The Lincoln Project will send Trump a taco at any location of his choosing. The choice of shell will be up to Trump, though we suggest a bowl since we have heard it is more heart healthy.

Unless expressly rescinded in writing, this offer will remain open until the initiation of litigation or the end of Trump's time in office, whichever comes first.

We look forward to your reply.



Mario Nicolais, General Counsel
The Lincoln Project