



SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 22, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Re: Request for review of Department contracts with Microsoft due to former FBI official Nikki Floris's role in withholding election-security intelligence from President Donald J. Trump

Dear Secretary Mullin:

Article II of the Constitution vests the executive power in a President of the United States. Federal officials who take an oath to support and defend that Constitution are subordinates of the elected President and are charged with implementing his lawful agenda, with the most crucial part being to provide him complete, accurate information. That is how the federal government has always worked, and it is how our Republic has survived for 250 years.

Recently declassified records showed that Nikki Floris, a former senior FBI analyst who served as the Bureau's election-security lead for the 2020 presidential election, allegedly used her unelected position to conceal critical intelligence from President Trump's briefings in late 2020. After leaving federal service, Ms. Floris joined Microsoft's federal contracts and federal systems teams, where she now serves as Director of Insider Risk. Ms. Floris' departure from the federal government through its ever-spinning revolving door following her alleged actions raises serious concerns that must be addressed.

On that basis, we respectfully request that the Department review its contracts with Microsoft, assess any insider risk or foreign risk exposure associated with Ms. Floris's role, and, if warranted, terminate or condition those contracts.

I. Who We Are

Democracy Restored is a nonpartisan government watchdog dedicated to ensuring our federal government works for the people, not for special interests or the personal ambitions of federal employees. We aim to bring transparency to those who actively undermine our democracy, often under the guise of protecting it. We strive to ensure that the power to make decisions impacting people's lives lies in the hands of individuals elected by their constituents.

Democracy Restored exists to educate the public about how its government really works, and how it far too often does not. We expose the actions of unelected bureaucrats who influence policy against the wishes the American people have expressed through their elected representatives. Decision-making power belongs with those elected by the people, not with officials who operate outside the reach of the voters and of the President the voters chose.

II. Overview

The 2020 presidential election made plain that our elections, when conducted amid a global pandemic, were not adequately secured and were highly susceptible to fraud and manipulation.¹ In the months leading to that election, the FBI's Albany Field Office compiled an Intelligence Information Report (IIR)

¹The White House, "Election Integrity," accessed July 27, 2026, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/election-integrity/>.



describing a targeted plan by the Chinese Communist Party to produce “tens of thousands” of American driver’s licenses for the purpose of obtaining and casting mail-in ballots for then-candidate Joseph R. Biden.² Intelligence Information Reports are typically disseminated across FBI components so that the Bureau can build a complete intelligence picture.³

On September 25, 2020, FBI Headquarters demanded that the report be recalled and that its contents and dissemination be concealed. The recall came minutes after an FBI Albany official stated, “We have no reason to recall at this point.”⁴ The IIR was never reissued, with the stated reason that “the reporting will contradict Director [Christopher] Wray’s testimony” given to Congress days prior.⁵

One of the officials at FBI Headquarters involved in demanding the recall was Ms. Nikki Floris,⁶ the then “election security lead for the 2020 presidential elections.”⁷ Declassified documents released by the White House appear to show not only that she recalled a report that could have been vital to election security two months before a presidential election, but that she described her own authority in terms no subordinate of an elected President should ever use.

Referring to the demand to recall the China-interference report and clamp down on election-related IIRs going forward, Ms. Floris said, according to the documents, “I’m basically running a shadow government across the FBI at this point.”⁸ That’s not just a figure of speech; it is a window into an entrenched bureaucracy that had grown so powerful, and so unaccountable, that some officials believed they were above the law. FBI analysts raised concerns about a political rationale for recalling the report so close to the election, which would be antithetical to the Bureau’s mission, highly irregular, and corrosive to the FBI’s integrity.⁹

The concealment did not stop inside the Bureau. Under Ms. Floris’s leadership, the FBI reportedly “deliberately massaged the presidential daily briefing to withhold information regarding Chinese activities related to the election.”¹⁰ In other words, an unelected official used her position to keep the elected President from seeing intelligence that bore directly on the then-upcoming election.

Ms. Floris is now Director of Insider Risk at Microsoft, a company that has held major federal cloud and systems contracts and that, until a public reckoning, staffed Chinese engineers to support Pentagon cloud work.¹¹ Her title itself should command the Department’s attention. An official who allegedly withheld

²U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, “Grassley Releases Bombshell Records Showing FBI Headquarters Interfered with Alleged Chinese Election Interference Probe to Shield Christopher Wray from Political Blowback,” July 1, 2025, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/rep/releases/grassley-releases-bombshell-records-showing-fbi-headquarters-interfered-with-alleged-chinese-election-interference-probe-to-shield-christopher-wray-from-political-blowback>.

³Ibid.

⁴U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, “Grassley Releases Bombshell Records.”

⁵Ibid.; Department of Justice, “Statement of Christopher A. Wray,” September 24, 2020, <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/imo/media/doc/Testimony-Wray-2020-09-24.pdf>.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Nikki L. Floris Named Intelligence Analyst in Charge of the Intelligence Division of the Washington Field Office,” May 20, 2022, <https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/nikki-l-floris-named-intelligence-analyst-in-charge-of-the-intelligence-division-of-the-washington-field-office>.

⁸The White House, “SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT: President Trump Declassifies Intel on Foreign Election Interference and Deep State Coverup,” July 17, 2026, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/releases/2026/07/setting-the-record-straight-president-trump-declassifies-intel-on-foreign-election-interference-deep-state-coverup/>.

⁹Travis Gillmore, “Officials Sought to Downplay China’s Link to 2020 Election,” The Epoch Times, July 22, 2026, <https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/officials-sought-to-downplay-chinas-link-to-2020-election-6063683>.

¹⁰Kaelan Deese, “Who is Nikki Floris? Ex-FBI official behind Trump’s ‘shadow government’ rhetoric during election address,” Washington Examiner, July 19, 2026, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/justice/4654150/who-is-nikki-floris-ex-fbi-official-behind-trumps-shadow-government-rhetoric-during-election-address/>.

¹¹Monica Showalter, “Deep State crawls out of the woodwork: Meet former FBI executive Nikki Floris,” American Thinker, July 18, 2026, <https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2026/07/deep-state-crawls-out-of-the-woodwork-meet->



China-related election intelligence from the President of the United States now occupies a role charged with judging insider threats at a federal government vendor privileged with access to sensitive systems throughout the entirety of the government.

III. The Contracting and National-Security Concern

The sequence is straightforward. Ms. Floris was appointed to lead 2020 election-integrity intelligence. She allegedly suppressed an intelligence report identifying the Chinese Communist Party as a bad actor, then further withheld that intelligence from presidential briefings. She then moved to Microsoft, into a division that handles federal systems and insider risk at a company whose federal work has already raised CCP access concerns. The revolving door between Washington intelligence officials and contractors that handle the government's most sensitive work is not an abstract governance problem; it can create national security risks.

When an official who openly described running a "shadow government" inside the FBI later assumes an insider-risk post at such a contractor, the Department cannot treat this as a closed matter. It is a live question of fitness, access, and foreign-influence exposure.

Federal contractors who hold Department data, networks, or analytic systems must be staffed by people who will not conceal information from elected leadership and who will not treat the President's lawful demand for a complete intelligence picture as an inconvenience. Anything less leaves the homeland far less secure, especially when it comes to our elections.

IV. Requested Action

We respectfully request that the Department:

- (1) Open a review of existing and pending Department contracts with Microsoft to determine the nature and sensitivity of systems, data, and facilities to which Microsoft personnel have access;
- (2) Determine what role, if any, Ms. Floris has in those contracts, including insider-risk, federal systems, or clearance-adjacent functions, and whether that role is consistent with the Department's security and integrity standards;
- (3) Assess whether Microsoft's prior use of China-based engineering support on federal cloud work, together with Ms. Floris's documented withholding of China-related intelligence from the elected President, presents an unacceptable foreign-influence or insider-risk profile; and
- (4) If the review so warrants, terminate, suspend, or condition the relevant contracts, and require personnel and access remedies sufficient to protect Department systems and the American people.

Again: this is not about one person or even one corporation. It is about the apparent risk of an allegation-clad former FBI analyst taking a risk management role with a storied American technology company. The reins of power belong in the hands of those elected by the people. The Department of Homeland Security is uniquely positioned to insist on that principle with its own contracts.

Thank you for your continued service to the United States and for your commitment to defending the homeland.

Respectfully,

Houston Keene
Director
Democracy Restored

[former-fbi-executive-nikki-floris/](https://www.cnbc.com/2025/07/18/microsoft-china-digital-escorts-pentagon.html); Jordan Novet, "Microsoft stops relying on Chinese engineers for Pentagon cloud support," CNBC, July 18, 2025, <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/07/18/microsoft-china-digital-escorts-pentagon.html>.