

THE RULE OF LAW MATTERS

July 16, 2026

VIA HAND DELIVERY & EMAIL

Senator John Barrasso
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Re: Opposition to Nomination of Todd Blanche for U.S. Attorney General

Dear Senators Barrasso & Lummis:

As Wyoming lawyers and retired judges sworn to uphold the Constitution, we write to you again about the continuing assault on the Rule of Law under the current administration.

In these times especially, with an important mid-term election on the near horizon, it is imperative that our elected representatives make careful decisions about those who will be in charge of the agencies responsible to oversee those elections. Obviously, the Attorney General of the United States will play a central role in that election process, as well as countless other matters critical to the ongoing administration of justice in these difficult times. While we understand the President is entitled to nominate cabinet officials whom he believes share his policy agenda, any person nominated for Attorney General must also demonstrate that he or she possesses both extraordinary judgement and integrity, as well as the independence and fundamental leadership qualities necessary to captain the enormous ship of the Department of Justice.

In his time of service as the acting Attorney General Todd Blanche has demonstrated that he does not have any of those necessary qualities. There is no better evidence of this than his leading role in the *Trump v. IRS* case. We will not add our characterization to the

case, or Mr. Blanche's central part in it, but instead share below the links to the documents which lay out the facts in detail:

1. The so-called "settlement agreement" regarding the lawsuit;
2. Mr. Blanche's "addendum" to the "settlement agreement" purporting to "release" the Trump family and his business from claims;
3. Mr. Blanche's "directive" establishing the so-called "anti-weaponization" fund;
4. The motion of federal judges seeking review of the "settlement";
5. The legal brief filed by court appointed amici regarding the collusive and fraudulent nature of the "settlement;"
6. The district court's recent order confirming the collusive nature of the settlement and reporting Mr. Blanche's conduct to state bar authorities for investigation.

No ethical lawyer worth his salt would be a part of this colossal abuse of our judicial system.

Beyond this, those who know better than any of us have gone on record to further detail Mr. Blanche's lack of leadership qualities, independence, and ethical standards demanded of any member of the legal profession, as exhibited by the following:

7. The letter from 1200 former DOJ employees in opposition to Mr. Blanche's nomination;
8. The letter from the New York City Bar Association regarding Mr. Blanche's failure to adhere to the Rules of Professional Responsibility.

We urge you and your staff to take the time to read each of these submissions. While there are many reasons to disqualify Mr. Blanche, standing alone, his conduct surrounding the collusive IRS lawsuit show without doubt that he does not come close to possessing the high level of legal judgment, ethical integrity, or independence required of any person seeking a position of such importance to our country at this important moment.

If, in spite of this, you choose to support Mr. Blanche's nomination, we ask that you explain to your Wyoming constituents how you could justify dismissing the very serious factual evidence of his lack of qualifications, judgment, and independence as shown in these submissions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Golden (Former Chief Justice Wyoming Supreme Court), Michael K. Davis (Former Chief Justice Wyoming Supreme Court), V. Frank Mendicino (Former Wyoming Attorney General, Attorney, Westminster Col.), Patrick J. Crank (Former Wyoming Attorney General, Attorney, Cheyenne), Gay V. Woodhouse (Former Wyoming Attorney General, Attorney, Cheyenne), Rebecca W. Watson (Former Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, Attorney, Cody), Timothy C. Day (District Court Judge, Ninth District (Retired, Past President Wyoming Bar Assn.), Peter G. Arnold (District Court Judge, First Judicial District (Retired), David B. Park (District Court Judge, Seventh District (Retired), James L. Radda (Circuit Court Judge Ninth District, Retired), Ken Barbe, (Past President, Wyoming Bar Assn., Attorney, Casper), Richard M. Davis (Past President Wyoming Bar Assn., Attorney, Sheridan), Paul J. Hickey (Past President of Wyoming Bar Assn., Attorney (Retired) Cheyenne), Bradley E. Adams (Attorney, Jackson), John F. Araas (Retired Attorney, Sheridan), Andrew Baldwin (Attorney, Gillette), James R. Belcher (Attorney, Casper), Mary Bennett (Attorney, Casper), Lynn Boak (Attorney, Cheyenne (Retired)), Bradley L. Booke (Attorney, Jackson), Kim D. Cannon (Attorney, Sheridan), Leonard Carlman, (Attorney/Wilson); Hal Corbett (Attorney, Sheridan), Jean A. Day (Attorney, Jackson), Stuart R. Day (Attorney, Casper), Linda E. Devine (Attorney, Laramie), Stephenson D. Emery (Attorney, Casper), Rolf Engh (Attorney, Jackson), Abigail E. Fournier (Attorney, Cheyenne), R. Scott Garland (Attorney, Jackson), Jay A. Gilbertz (Attorney, Sheridan), Pat Hoelscher (Attorney, Casper), Bob Rose III (Attorney (Retired) Cheyenne), R. Scott Kath (Attorney, Powell), Grant Lawson (Attorney, Casper), Jennifer L. McDowell (Attorney, Casper), Brad Mead (Attorney (Retired) Jackson), Kate Mead (Attorney, Jackson), Joseph F. Moore, Jr. (Attorney/Mediator, Jackson), Richard J. Mulligan (Attorney, Jackson), Craig Newman (Attorney, Casper), Peter Nicolaysen (Attorney, Casper), Jason E. Ochs (Attorney, Jackson), Mel C. Orchard III (Attorney, Jackson), Jack D. Palma II (Attorney, Cheyenne), Rennie P. Phillips (Attorney, Laramie), George E. Powers, Jr. (Attorney, Cheyenne),), Jennifer A. Reece (Attorney, Casper), Weston W. Reeves (Attorney, Casper), John H. Robinson (Attorney, Casper/Jackson), Grant Rogers (Attorney, Laramie), Ben Rose (Attorney, Virginia), Benjamin J. Rowland (Attorney, Cheyenne), George Santini (Attorney, Cheyenne), Robert P. Schuster (Attorney, Jackson), Cheryl R. Schwartz (Attorney, (Retired) Jackson), Leah C. Schwartz (Attorney, Jackson), Margaret A. R. Schwartz (Attorney, Jackson), William P. Schwartz (Attorney, Jackson), Ryan Semerad (Attorney, Casper), Carole Shotwell (Attorney, Laramie), Alaina M. Stedillie (Attorney, Casper), Linda J. Steiner (Attorney, Cheyenne), Tenille L. Straley (Attorney, Sheridan), Susan C. Stubson (Attorney, Casper), Judith A. W. Studer (Attorney, Casper), J.R. Twiford (Business Leader, Attorney, Story), Cameron S. Walker (Attorney, Casper),), Deb Wendtland (Attorney, Sheridan), Larry Wolfe (Attorney, Cheyenne (Retired.))

NOTES:

1. <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.flsd.706172/gov.uscourts.flsd.706172.63.1.pdf>
2. <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.flsd.706172/gov.uscourts.flsd.706172.63.2.pdf>
3. <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.flsd.706172/gov.uscourts.flsd.706172.63.3.pdf>

4. <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.flsd.706172/gov.uscourts.flsd.706172.63.0.pdf>
5. <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.flsd.706172/gov.uscourts.flsd.706172.45.0.pdf>
6. [Trump-v-IRS-106-Order-on-Sanctions.pdf](#)
7. [Todd Blanche Alumni Letter Draft with Signatories](#)
8. [20221663-BlancheUnqualifiedAG_FINAL-7.13.26.pdf](#)

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