BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Donald J. Trump, et al.

MURs 7645, 7663, and 7705

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF REASONS OF COMMISSIONER ELLEN L. WEINTRAUB

In their Statement of Reasons in these matters, my colleagues try to draw a comparison between these matters and another Commission decision where we found no probable cause to believe a violation had occurred. But they gloss over a key distinction. In MUR 7271, the Commission agreed that there had been no solicitation. In contrast, the facts in the matters at issue here include the now infamous and unmistakable solicitation by then-President Trump to President Zelensky of Ukraine: “I would like you to do us a favor though . . .”

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Date

Ellen L. Weintraub
Commissioner

3 See Stmt. of Reasons of Comm’r Ellen L. Weintraub at 3, MUR 7271 (DNC, et al.) (June 15, 2021) (“[T]he email contains no solicitation”); Stmt. of Reasons of Vice Chair Allen Dickerson and Comm’rs Sean J. Cooksey and James E. “Trey” Trainor III at 2, MUR 7271 (DNC, et al.) (June 10, 2021) (“[T]he available evidence did not establish that Chalupa made a request to the official”); id. at 8 (“Among other considerations, the text of the email does not clearly indicate a request or solicitation for Poroshenko to take a certain action.”).
4 Compl. Attachment, MUR 7663 (Nov. 18, 2019) (The White House, Memorandum of Telephone Conversation at 3 (July 25, 2019).