

1 STANLEY E. WOODWARD, JR.
Associate Attorney General

2 BRETT A. SHUMATE
3 Assistant Attorney General
4 Civil Division

5 ERIC J. HAMILTON
6 Deputy Assistant Attorney General

7 EMILY M. HALL
8 TIBERIUS DAVIS
9 ELIZABETH HEDGES (DC No. 1657707)
Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division

10 CHRISTOPHER R. HALL
11 Assistant Branch Director
12 BRAD P. ROSENBERG
Special Counsel
13 R. CHARLIE MERRITT
Senior Counsel
14 Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch
15 U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
16 Washington, DC 20530
17 Phone: (202) 616-0929
E-mail: elizabeth.t.hedges@usdoj.gov
18 *Attorneys for Defendants*

19 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE**
20 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
21 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

22 AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
23 GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO,
et al.,

24 Plaintiffs,

25 v.

26 UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
27 MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, et al.,

28 Defendants.

Case No. 3:25-cv-08302-SI

**DECLARATION OF STEPHEN BILLY
IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS'
OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION FOR A TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER**

Hearing Date: October 16, 2025
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Judge: Hon. Susan Illston
Place: San Francisco Courthouse
Courtroom 01

1 I, Stephen Billy, declare, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, as follows:

2 1. I am a Senior Advisor at the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”),
3 Executive Office of the President, headquartered in Washington, D.C. I have served in this
4 position since January 24, 2025. This declaration is based on my personal knowledge and
5 information provided to me in my official capacity by others.

6 2. At the end of the day on September 30, 2025, the funding for many Executive
7 Branch agencies expired, leaving those agencies without appropriated funding. As a result, those
8 agencies began an orderly shutdown of certain activities, consistent with the Anti-Deficiency
9 Act.

10 3. In advance of this lapse in appropriations, OMB sent an email to senior agency
11 officials on September 24, 2025, providing that, “consistent with applicable law, including the
12 requirements of 5 C.F.R. part 351, agencies are directed to use this opportunity to consider
13 Reduction in Force (RIF) notices for all employees in programs, projects, or activities (PPAs)
14 that satisfy all three of the following conditions: (1) discretionary funding lapses on October 1,
15 2025; (2) another source of funding, such as H.R. 1 (Public Law 119-21) is not currently
16 available; and (3) the PPA is not consistent with the President’s priorities.” ECF No. 15-1 at 1
17 (“OMB Lapse Email”).

18 4. On September 28, 2025, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (“OPM”)
19 issued instructions to agencies regarding the impending lapse in appropriations which explained
20 among other things that “OMB has determined that agencies are authorized to direct employees
21 to perform work necessary to administer the RIF process during the lapse in appropriations as
22 excepted activities.” ECF No. 15-2 (“OPM Special Instructions”).

23 5. Both the OMB Lapse Email and the OPM Special Instructions provided that
24 “[a]ny proposed RIF plan must be submitted to OMB.” OMB Lapse Email at 1; OPM Special
25 Instructions at 10. Agencies submitted varied responses to OMB, including before the lapse in
26 appropriations, describing plans based on their considerations, and identifying whether they
27 found the criteria in the OMB Lapse Email were met as to any offices or employees within their
28 agencies.

1 6. I have been informed that, on October 7, 2025, the Court in the above-captioned
2 matter ordered Defendants to address a number of issues in its Order setting a briefing schedule
3 on Plaintiffs’ motion for a temporary restraining order, including:

- 4 • the status of any currently planned or in-progress RIF notices to be issued
5 during/because of the government shutdown, including the earliest date that
6 those RIF notices will go out;
- 7 • which of the defendant agencies anticipate issuing RIF notices
8 during/because of the government shutdown and the estimated number of
9 employees at the defendant agency who will receive such RIF notices; and
- 10 • whether any employees at the defendant agencies have been ordered back
11 to work during the government shutdown in order to effectuate the issuance
12 of RIF notices.

13 7. Based on information provided by agencies to OMB to date in response to the
14 OMB Lapse Email, and to me in my official capacity in response to the Court’s Order, it is my
15 understanding that several Defendant agencies began issuing RIF notices related to the lapse in
16 appropriations today, October 10, 2025. The names of those agencies, along with estimated
17 numbers of employees at the agencies who may receive such notices and dates for those notices,
18 are contained in the following table. The situation involving the lapse in appropriations is fluid
19 and rapidly evolving. As such, these numbers reflect the most current information made
20 available to me at this time and are subject to change. I understand in consultation with their
21 agency general counsels, employees at each of those agencies are treating work on RIF notices
22 and implementation as excepted work and/or completing RIF-related work during periodic lapses
23 between otherwise excepted activity.

AGENCY	ESTIMATED EMPLOYEES	RIF NOTICE DATE	EMPLOYEES RECALLED TO PERFORM RIF WORK?
Commerce ¹	315	10/10/2025	YES

28 ¹ The United States Patent and Trademark Office, which is a component agency of the
Department of Commerce, separately issued RIF notices to 126 employees on October 1, 2025.

1	Education	466	10/10/2025	NO ²
2	Energy	187	10/10/2025	NO ³
3	EPA	20-30	10/10/2025	NO ⁴
4	HHS	1100-1200	10/10/2025	YES
5	HUD	442	10/10/2025	YES
6	DHS	176	10/10/2025	NO ⁵
7	Treasury	1446	10/10/2025	YES

8
9 8. There are preexisting RIFs which are currently in progress at federal agencies;
10 those RIFs were undertaken prior to the October 1 lapse in appropriations; are in addition to
11 those described above, which are related to the OMB Lapse Email; and are not addressed in this
12 declaration. I understand that as to these agencies, OPM has informed agencies that continuing
13 to plan for RIFs, or implementing previously-announced RIFs, may, as agencies deem, be treated
14 as excepted activity.

15 9. According to information provided by agencies to OMB to date in response to the
16 OMB Lapse Email, and provided to me in my official capacity in response to the Court’s Order,
17 other Defendant agencies (in addition to some of those agencies identified in Paragraphs 7 and 8)
18

19
20 ² I understand that Department of Education employees who were
21 performing other excepted work during the lapse in appropriations are also working on RIF
22 activities. The Department of Education has not called anyone back to work at this time but may
23 do so to assist with implementation of the RIF in the future.

24 ³ I have been informed that the Department of Energy is not currently experiencing a
25 lapse in appropriations, and accordingly has not excepted employees to work on the issuance of
26 RIF notices.

27 ⁴ EPA issued a general “intent to RIF” notice to approximately 20-30 employees today
28 (October 10, 2025) notifying them that they may be affected by a RIF in the future. EPA has not
made a final decision as to whether or when to issue RIF notices to some or all of those
employees at some point going forward and is currently deliberating regarding those potential
plans. The Environmental Protection Agency has not excepted employees to work on RIF-related
activities.

⁵ I understand that DHS employees who were performing other excepted work during the
lapse in appropriations are also working on RIF activities. DHS has not called anyone back to
work at this time but may do so to assist with implementation of the RIF in the future.

1 may actively be considering whether to conduct additional RIFs, including RIFs related to the
2 ongoing lapse in appropriations. Other Defendant agencies are making predecisional
3 assessments regarding offices and subdivisions that may be considered for potential RIFs based
4 on the criteria outlined in the OMB Lapse Email. But those assessments remain under
5 deliberation and are not final. And I am not aware of any Defendant agencies other than those
6 identified in Paragraph 7 that have made a final decision to issue RIF notices during or because
7 of the ongoing lapse in appropriations. Consequently, to date, while some agency employees are
8 conducting these predecisional assessments and RIF planning (including the activity described in
9 Paragraph 9) as excepted activities, I am not aware of employees of the remaining Defendant
10 agencies having issued RIF notices as an excepted activity during or because of the ongoing
11 lapse in appropriations.

12 10. Further, given that to my knowledge no agency head at a Defendant agency other
13 than those identified in Paragraph 7 has made a final decision to issue RIF notices during or
14 because of the ongoing lapse in appropriations, and agencies are instead actively deliberating
15 about and continually revising potential RIF plans in which they have identified offices or
16 subdivisions that meet the criteria in the OMB Lapse Email, I am unaware of any agency other
17 than those identified in Paragraph 7 having a concrete estimate of how many employees will
18 receive RIF notices. As part of this preliminary work, some agencies have offered preliminary
19 estimates of how many employees might receive RIF notices, but those estimates are subject to
20 change as agencies that are considering potential RIFs actively consider the scope of such
21 potential RIFs. Likewise, to my knowledge no agency other than those identified in Paragraph 7
22 has reached a final decision regarding the earliest date that it might issue RIF notices, if any.

23 11. The situation involving the lapse in appropriations is fluid and rapidly evolving.
24 The statements herein reflect the most current information made available to me at this time.

1 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true
2 and correct.

3 Dated: October 10, 2025
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5

6 s/ Stephen Billy
7 Stephen Billy
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