

BENNIE G. THOMPSON, MISSISSIPPI
CHAIRMAN

ZOE LOFGREN, CALIFORNIA
ADAM B. SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
PETE AGUILAR, CALIFORNIA
STEPHANIE N. MURPHY, FLORIDA
JAMIE RASKIN, MARYLAND
ELAINE G. LURIA, VIRGINIA
LIZ CHENEY, WYOMING
ADAM KINZINGER, ILLINOIS



U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

january6th.house.gov
(202) 225-7800

One Hundred Seventeenth Congress

Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol

May 2, 2022

Representative Ronny Jackson
United States House of Representatives
118 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jackson:

On June 30, 2021, the House adopted House Resolution 503, establishing the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol (the “Select Committee”). The Select Committee is investigating the facts, circumstances, and causes of the January 6th attack and issues relating thereto. The Select Committee has tremendous respect for the prerogatives of Congress and the privacy of its Members. At the same time, we have a solemn responsibility to investigate fully the facts and circumstances of these events.

As part of our investigation, the Select Committee is examining the coordination by various individuals and organizations on January 6th to “Occupy the Capitol,” in an effort to obstruct Congress’s official proceeding to count electoral votes. Certain relevant facts have recently emerged, including in filings by the U.S. Department of Justice in ongoing criminal proceedings related to the Proud Boys and Oath Keeper organizations.

We write to seek your cooperation in advancing our investigation. First, while the January 6th attack on the Capitol was underway, members of the Oath Keepers, including its leader, Stewart Rhodes, exchanged encrypted messages asking members of the organization to provide you personally with security assistance, suggesting that you have “critical data to protect”:

User #1	1/6/2021	3:00 PM	Ronnie Jackson (TX) office inside Capitol – he needs [Oath Keeper] help. Anyone inside?
User #2	1/6/2021	3:03 PM	Hopefully they can help Dr. Jackson.
User #1	1/6/2021	3:08 PM	[posts photo] Dr. Ronnie Jackson – on the move. Needs protection. If anyone inside cover him. He has critical data to protect.

Stewart Rhodes [responding to 3:00 PM message from User #1]	1/6/2021	3:10 PM	Help with what?
Stewart Rhodes [responding to 3:08 PM message from User #1]	1/6/2021	3:10 PM	Give him my cell. ¹

As you likely know from public disclosures, individuals in these groups have been charged with seditious conspiracy. Several of these individuals are alleged to have plotted the violent overthrow of the United States and allegedly staged weapons at a location near Washington D.C. for that purpose. It is evident from the exchange above that the individuals believed the violence in the Capitol would threaten the lives and safety of Members of Congress. And the exchanges above raise several specific questions for you: Why would these individuals have an interest in your specific location? Why would they believe you “have critical data to protect?” Why would they direct their members to protect your personal safety? With whom did you speak by cell phone that day? The Oath Keepers and Proud Boys had contacts with a number of other individuals with whom you may also have been in contact. If you had no contact with the individuals who sent these messages, who else would have informed them of your security needs or your location? We would appreciate your assistance in answering these questions.

In the hours before the January 6th attack, you posted photographs of yourself at the Ellipse rally and tweeted the following statement: “American Patriots have your BACK Mr. President! We will FIGHT for YOU and we will fight OUR country!!”² We would like to discuss how and when you returned from the Ellipse to the Capitol, and the contacts you had with participants in the rally or the subsequent march from the Ellipse to the Capitol.

As the violence unfolded, you recognized the need to barricade the doors of the House Chamber, and participated in that effort.³ The Committee has video evidence of how close the rioters came to breaching the House Chamber at that point in time. We wish to record your firsthand observations of that period, including the reactions and statements of other members of Congress to the violence at that moment.

We would like to meet with you soon, but we also want to accommodate your schedule. We propose meeting with you the week of May 9, 2022. Please let us know whether one of those dates will fit with your schedule. If you are unavailable that week, we can arrange an alternative time to meet. If it would be preferable to hold this meeting with you in your district, we would also be glad to explore travel arrangements to facilitate that option.

¹ Documents on file with the Select Committee.

² Ronny Jackson (@RonnyJacksonTX), Twitter (Jan. 6, 2021, 12:51 pm), <https://twitter.com/RonnyJacksonTX/status/1346877167733530624>.

³ Jeremy W. Peters, *Insurgency: How Republicans Lost Their Party and Got Everything They Ever Wanted* xvii (2022).

The American people deserve a full and accurate accounting of what happened on January 6th. In the immediate aftermath of the violence, you acknowledged that the attack was “an act of domestic terrorism.”⁴ We hope that you continue to recognize the importance and severity of the events that day, and will voluntarily step forward to share your firsthand knowledge on these topics. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman



Liz Cheney
Vice Chair

⁴ *Rep. Ronny Jackson Calls DC Riots An Act of Domestic Terrorism*, TexomasHomepage.com (Jan. 6, 2021), <https://www.texomashomepage.com/news/local-news/rep-ronny-jackson-calls-dc-riots-an-act-of-domestic-terrorism/>.