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January 22, 2025

Sen. Roger Wicker  
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee  
Russell Senate Office Building, 425,  
Washington, DC 20510

*Re: Pete Hegseth*

Dear Chairman Wicker:

I represent Pete Hegseth and am writing to address the claims made in a recent affidavit by Danielle Dietrich, the ex-wife of Mr. Hegseth's brother.

From the beginning, Mr. Hegseth has faced an onslaught of false anonymous allegations. While it is difficult to respond to, or to credit anonymous allegations, the benefit of someone putting their name on the record is that we can examine their credibility and bias. In this case, the credibility and bias is easy to discern.

A lifelong Democrat, Ms. Dietrich's bias is manifested in her own admission that "been assured that making this public statement will ensure that certain Senators who are still on the fence will vote against Hegseth's confirmation." She is openly admitting that her purpose is to sink the nomination and has been promised by Democrats that such a statement would have that effect.


The vast majority of what Ms. Dietrich claims are things that she admits that she did not witness. She materially contradicts Sam's sworn statements in the divorce proceedings where she acknowledges that there was no abuse. Moreover, she inadvertently accuses Sam of lying to the FBI as part of Mr. Hegseth's background investigation. It is important to note that Ms. Dietrich told all of this to the FBI on December 30, 2024 but the FBI was unable to corroborate her claims, which were then flatly refuted by Sam, the actual participant.

Ms. Dietrich's claims defy credulity as these types of claims would have been best raised by Sam during the divorce proceeding when she stood to gain the most from them, both monetarily and in parenting time. She didn't raise them at the time because they weren't true.

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Beyond her statements in the Court and the FBI, Sam also sent an email to NBC earlier today to reaffirm:

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 ★ **Samantha Hegseth** 12:23 PM  
To: Courtney Cc: Robert >

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Courtney: There was no physical abuse in my marriage. This is the only further statement I will make to you, I have let you know that I am not speaking and will not speak on my marriage to Pete. Please respect this decision.

Sam Hegseth

Beyond Sam's refutations, you also have affidavits from Mr. Hegseth's brothers denying the false claims in the affidavit.

It should be noted from Sen. Reed's letter that Ms. Dietrich is represented by Leita Walker of Ballard Spahr. This firm, which has notable connections to the Democratic Party, as both the firm and its members have made significant contributions to Democratic candidates, normally bills out at well over \$1,000/hour, far beyond Ms. Dietrich's means. It is clear that partisans are funding Ms. Dietrich in her efforts to hurt Mr. Hegseth's confirmation.

There is no basis to credit this deeply flawed and questionable affidavit, which was submitted at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour in a clear and admitted partisan attempt to derail Mr. Hegseth's confirmation. I would respectfully submit that you can rely upon the Minnesota Court records and the FBI's findings to reject this perjurious affidavit and move forward to confirm Mr. Hegseth as Secretary of Defense.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy C. Parlatore