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May 29, 2026

Clay Magouyrk & Mike Sicilia
Chief Executive Officers
Oracle
2300 Oracle Way
Austin, TX 78741

Dear Mr. Magouyrk and Mr. Sicilia,

Oracle is playing an important, if little understood, role in implementing President Donald Trump’s TikTok deal, which was designed to keep TikTok online while guarding against Chinese-driven algorithmic manipulation, among other national security risks. Yet, more than four months after that deal closed, TikTok USDS — the joint venture that now owns TikTok’s U.S. operations — has disclosed little information about how it is protecting against those dangers. As the “Trusted Security Partner” to TikTok USDS with a critical role in implementing the deal and protecting U.S. national security, Oracle owes the Congress and the public an explanation of precisely how it is doing so.

As I explain in my separate oversight letter to TikTok USDS, the TikTok deal appears to undermine congressional intent in passing the TikTok law.¹ In 2024, Congress passed the *Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act* to ensure, in part, that the Chinese government could not manipulate TikTok’s algorithm and covertly influence the content viewed by TikTok’s 170 million American users.² Although I have previously criticized this law as rushed and shortsighted, it nevertheless reflected a legitimate bipartisan concern that foreign-controlled platforms — such as TikTok — could shape or suppress content, specifically through their algorithms, in ways that threatened U.S. democratic processes, public safety, and national security. Notably, the law prohibited TikTok’s then-owner, ByteDance, from having any “operational relationship” with the post-divestment owner of TikTok’s U.S. operations. Despite this clear congressional intent, President Trump, ByteDance, and TikTok USDS reached an agreement that maintained such an operational relationship, violating the spirit, if not the letter, of the law and leaving a critical national security risk unaddressed.³ In late January — after repeatedly and illegally delaying enforcement of the law⁴ — ByteDance agreed to license its

¹ Letter from U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey to Adam Presser, President, TikTok USDS (May 29, 2026).

² Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act of 2024, 15 U.S.C. § 9901 (note).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *See, e.g.*, Exec. Order No. 14,166, 90 Fed. Reg. 8,611 (Jan. 30, 2025).

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algorithm to TikTok USDS, which constitutes the exact type of ongoing relationship between the two entities that Congress sought to prohibit.

Given this ongoing operational relationship, the TikTok deal includes other, vague safeguards intended to address the risk of algorithmic manipulation on the platform. In particular, TikTok USDS employees will closely review the algorithm's source code to detect any Chinese manipulation and will retrain TikTok USDS's content recommendation algorithm on U.S. user data.⁵ Yet, as I explain in my letter to TikTok USDS, these safeguards come with questions about their effectiveness, including whether source code review can meaningfully identify algorithmic manipulation, especially if, for example, China attempted to hide malicious code within an urgent security patch. Similarly, TikTok USDS has failed to explain how retraining its content recommendation algorithm would work or how it would prevent algorithmic manipulation. The limited information that TikTok USDS has released in the four months since the divestment deal has left the Congress and the American people rightfully wondering whether President Trump's TikTok deal is a national security risk.

Oracle can help fill these informational gaps. As part of the TikTok deal, Oracle agreed to serve as TikTok USDS's Trusted Security Partner and assist with overseeing and implementing key national security safeguards. Under this arrangement, Oracle maintains TikTok USDS's primary cloud environment by storing U.S. user data and TikTok USDS's content moderation algorithm. Most notably, Oracle will also "assist" TikTok USDS in reviewing source code.⁶ But beyond these high-level descriptions of Oracle's role in the deal, little is known about the specific contours of its involvement. Despite repeated requests from my staff for briefings on Oracle's operational role in the TikTok deal, Oracle has refused to provide further information. Given Oracle's seemingly central position in implementing national security safeguards, the company has a responsibility to be transparent on the scope, execution, and effectiveness of its obligations.

Over the past few years, I have been committed to keeping TikTok online in the United States while addressing the underlying national security risks. I opposed the *Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act* because compliance with the underlying goals of the law would necessarily force TikTok to go dark in the United States. Today, as Congress's attention has turned away from TikTok, we are living with the consequences of this rushed law: President Trump managed to keep TikTok online only by ignoring the law's central goal and relying on vague, unproven safeguards to address the legitimate risks to national security. I remain committed to finding a workable solution to this problem, including through legislation that I proposed last year to establish transparency requirements around the content displayed and promoted on the platform.⁷

⁵ Company News, TikTok, Announcement from the new TikTok USDS Joint Venture LLC (Jan. 23, 2026), <https://newsroom.tiktok.com/announcement-from-the-new-tiktok-usds-joint-venture-llc>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Press Release, Office of Senator Edward J. Markey, Senator Markey Releases Discussion Draft of Legislation to Keep TikTok Online and Protect National Security (July 31, 2025), <https://www.markey.senate.gov/news/press-releases/senator-markey-releases-discussion-draft-of-legislation-to-keep-tiktok-online-and-protect-national-security>.

Given Oracle's role as the Trusted Security Partner, I request detailed information on the deal's proposed safeguards and Oracle's operational responsibilities. These details are critical to evaluating whether the safeguards in this deal are meaningful or merely cosmetic and whether Oracle's participation genuinely mitigates the national security risks that Congress sought to address. Please provide written responses to the following questions by June 18, 2026. Your responses should correspond to the numbering system below, including a distinct response to each subpart question.

1. What are the contractual terms of Oracle's involvement in TikTok USDS's review of ByteDance source code? Please provide a copy of the agreement setting forth Oracle's obligations.
 - a. Will Oracle employees review source code as part of the deal?
 - b. Will Oracle be auditing or validating that TikTok USDS has completed source code review as part of the deal? If so, how?
 - c. Based on Oracle's knowledge of and involvement with the source code review of ByteDance's original licensed code (excluding any updates to the source code since TikTok USDS was established), has that source code review been completed? If not, when will the source code review be completed?
 - d. Will Oracle employees have any ongoing operational role in the source code review? If so, please explain that role.
2. What are the contractual terms of Oracle's involvement in TikTok USDS's retraining of the algorithm? Please provide a copy of the agreement setting forth Oracle's obligations.
 - a. Under the deal, will Oracle retrain the licensed algorithm on U.S. user data?
 - b. Under the deal, will Oracle audit or validate that TikTok USDS has retrained the licensed algorithm on U.S. user data? If so, how?
 - c. Based on Oracle's knowledge of and involvement with model retraining, how many algorithms, models, and systems will TikTok USDS retrain? Please identify the model or models it will retrain. Will this include the core recommendation algorithm or other components?
 - d. Based on Oracle's knowledge of and involvement with model retraining, what is the expected timeline for model retraining, and when are the retrained models scheduled for deployment?
 - e. Based on Oracle's knowledge of and involvement with model retraining, please list all data categories, parameters, and feature classes included within the term "user data" for purposes of training or retraining any model.

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3. Does Oracle have access to, authority over, or oversight responsibilities for any other safeguards under the TikTok USDS deal?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward J. Markey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator