

August 21, 2026

Mr. Omar Ashmawy
Staff Director & Chief Counsel
Office of Congressional Conduct
U.S. House of Representatives
P.O. Box 895
Washington, D.C. 20515-0895

RE: Request for Investigation into Representative Richard Hudson (NC-09) for NRCC's Use of Footage from House Floor and Committee Proceedings in Political Campaign Materials

Dear Mr. Ashmawy,

I write to request that the Office of Congressional Conduct (“OCC”) immediately investigate Representative Richard Hudson of North Carolina’s 9th Congressional District, in his role as Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee (“NRCC”), for Rep. Hudson’s apparent violations of U.S. House of Representatives rules (“House Rules”) that prohibit the use of footage of House Floor and Committee proceedings for partisan political purposes. NRCC, under Rep. Hudson’s leadership, recently posted on their website and social media pages numerous photographs and videos taken during official House proceedings.

The prohibition on using footage of House Floor and Committee proceedings for partisan campaign purposes applies not only to Rep. Hudson’s own campaign activities, but also to any political undertaking he engages in (*i.e.*, his chairmanship of NRCC).

I respectfully request that you commence an immediate investigation into this matter to determine whether, and to what extent, Rep. Hudson and NRCC have violated House Rules and the clear directives of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics.

I. Factual Background

Representative Richard Hudson has served in Congress since 2013 and currently represents North Carolina’s 9th Congressional District.¹ He was elected Chairman of NRCC on November 15, 2022.² NRCC is a national party committee registered with the Federal Election Commission.³ In its own words, NRCC is “devoted to increasing the number of Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives.”⁴

a. DemocratFacts.org

¹ *About the Chairman*, NRCC, <https://www.nrcc.org/about-the-chairman/> (last visited July 30, 2026).

² *NC’s Hudson elected to chair National Republican Congressional Committee*, CAROLINA J. (Nov. 16, 2022), <https://www.carolinajournal.com/ncs-hudson-elected-to-chair-national-republican-congressional-committee/> (last visited July 30, 2026).

³ NRCC, “Statement of Organization,” FEC Form 1 (filed July 20, 2026), <https://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/forms/C00075820/1999839/> (last visited July 30, 2026).

⁴ *About*, NRCC, <https://nrcc.org/about-2> (last visited July 30, 2026).

In July 2026, the website “DemocratFacts.org” published numerous photographs of incumbent Democrats in committee rooms or on the House Floor. A disclaimer on the website discloses that it was paid for by the NRCC, and it is a well-known microsite used for Republican signaling, a campaign finance tactic used to communicate to the public about needs in a particular race.

i. Congressman Henry Cuellar

The website posted three still photographs of Congressman Henry Cuellar, who represents Texas’s 28th Congressional District, while sitting in House Committee hearing rooms on three separate occasions.⁵



Axios reported that the first image was taken during a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on May 15, 2025.⁶



Rep. Henry Cuellar attends a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing at the U.S. Capitol on May 15, 2025. Photo: Tom Williams/CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images

⁵ Henry Cuellar, DEMOCRATFACTS.ORG (last updated July 21, 2026), <https://www.democratfacts.org/candidates/henry-cuellar/> (last visited July 30, 2026).

⁶ Andrew Solender, *House Dems help GOP pass bills to fund ICE, avert shutdown*, AXIOS, Jan. 22, 2026, <https://www.axios.com/2026/01/22/ice-funding-government-shutdown-house-democrats> (last visited July 30, 2026).

USA Today reported that the second image was taken during a Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on April 10, 2024.⁷



U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, questions Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas during a Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on the DHS budget request on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., April 10, 2024. *Michael McCoy, REUTERS*

Roll Call reported that the third image was taken during the beginning of a House Appropriations Committee markup in July 2024.⁸

⁷ Mateo Rosiles, *Farm bill clears US House. See how Texas lawmakers voted, why*, USA TODAY, May 1, 2026, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2026/05/01/u-s-farm-bill-vote-with-sid-miller-texas-democrats-reacting/89888542007/> (last visited July 30, 2026).

⁸ Ryan Tarinelli, *Rep. Henry Cuellar seeks to dismiss bribery indictment*, ROLL CALL, May 12, 2025, <https://rollcall.com/2025/05/12/rep-henry-cuellar-seeks-to-dismiss-bribery-indictment/> (last visited July 30, 2026).



Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, arrives for the start of a House Appropriations Committee markup last July. (Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call)

Each image of Rep. Cuellar is the exact match of the one posted on DemocratFacts.org. Thus, it is undeniable that NRCC sponsored a website which posted photographs featuring House committee hearing images of Rep. Cuellar.

ii. Congressman Vicente Gonzalez

The website also posted a still photograph of Congressman Vicente Gonzalez, who represents Texas's 34th Congressional District, clearly taken on the House Floor.⁹



⁹ *Vicente Gonzalez*, DEMOCRATFACTS.ORG (last updated July 16, 2026), <https://www.democratfacts.org/candidates/vicente-gonzalez/> (last visited July 30, 2026).

iii. Congressman Frank Mrvan

The website also posted one still photograph and one video clip of Representative Frank Mrvan, who represents Indiana's 1st Congressional District, from the House Floor at the 2022 State of the Union Address.¹⁰ The video itself includes the chyron identifying it as having been captured from C-SPAN's coverage of the 2022 State of the Union. Furthermore, President Biden can be seen speaking to Rep. Mrvan at minute 71 of the broadcast.¹¹

This still photograph and video posted by DemocratFacts.org again is evidence of NRCC posting photographs featuring the House Floor for partisan political purposes.



iv. Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez

The website also posted a still photograph of Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, who represents Washington's 3rd Congressional District. In the photo, Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez is testifying in a House committee hearing.¹²

¹⁰ *Frank Mrvan*, DEMOCRATFACTS.ORG (last updated July 22, 2026), <https://www.democratfacts.org/candidates/frank-mrvan/> (last visited July 30, 2026).

¹¹ C-SPAN, 2022 State of the Union Address, at 1:11:05 (C-SPAN, Mar. 1, 2022), <https://www.c-span.org/program/joint-session-of-congress/2022-state-of-the-union-address/607733> (last visited July 30, 2026).

¹² *Marie Gluesenkamp Perez*, DEMOCRATFACTS.ORG (last updated July 30, 2026), <https://www.democratfacts.org/candidates/marie-gluesenkamp-perez/> (last visited July 30, 2026).



A press release from Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez's office demonstrates that the photograph was taken during her testimony on the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on January 11, 2024.¹³



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
 WASHINGTON'S THIRD DISTRICT

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Gluesenkamp Perez's PORT Act Signed Into Law, Along With Assistance for Flooding in Wahkiakum County and Mt. St. Helens Sediment Control

Jan 07, 2025 [Press](#)



Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez holds up a 40-year-old typewritten letter from the Port of Skamania requesting a land conveyance, during her testimony on the Water Resources Development Act of 2024.

v. Congressman Tom Suozzi

The website also posted three photos of Congressman Tom Suozzi, representative of New York's 3rd Congressional District, showing Rep. Suozzi seated in a chair on the House Floor.

¹³ *Gluesenkamp Perez's PORT Act Signed Into Law, Along with Assistance for Flooding in Wahkiakum County and Mt. St. Helens Sediment Control*, OFF. REP. GLUESENKAMP PEREZ, Jan. 7, 2025, <https://gluesenkampperez.house.gov/posts/gluesenkamp-perezs-port-act-signed-into-law-along-with-assistance-for-flooding-in-wahkiakum-county-and-mt-st-helens-sediment-control> (last visited July 30, 2026).



Rep. Suozzi posted a nearly identical version of the photographs on his official X account with the caption “I have always had a hard time staying awake watching reruns.” That photograph includes the State of the Union C-SPAN chyron and a time stamp of 10:04 p.m. ET. The X post was made the day after the 2026 State of the Union, on February 25, 2026.¹⁴



b. NRCC X Posts

NRCC’s bio on its X page is similar to its mission statement: “The NRCC is dedicated to defending our conservative majority in the House.” NRCC is a political party committee and it uses its X account for partisan political purposes.

¹⁴ Image posted by Tom Suozzi (@RepTomSuozzi), X, *I have always had a hard time staying awake watching reruns* (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://x.com/RepTomSuozzi/status/2026510783610237063> (last visited July 30, 2026).

NRCC has also used footage from the 2026 State of the Union on the committee's official X account in multiple posts, all from February 25, 2026, the day after the 2026 State of the Union.¹⁵ Each video features footage of the House Floor.

← Post



President Trump turned a disaster at the pump into real savings for American families.

Gas peaked over \$6 a gallon under Biden. Now? It's as low as \$1.99 across the country!



2:52 AM · Feb 25, 2026 · 891 Views

← Post



President Trump: "Mortgage rates are the lowest in four years & falling fast!"

The American Dream of homeownership is finally back within reach.



3:20 AM · Feb 25, 2026 · 1.1K Views

¹⁵ Video posted by NRCC (@NRCC), X, *President Trump turned a disaster at the pump into real savings* (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://x.com/NRCC/status/2026490418498613630> (last visited July 30, 2026); video posted by NRCC (@NRCC), X, *President Trump: "Mortgage rates are the lowest in four years & falling fast"* (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://x.com/NRCC/status/2026497551155818691> (last visited July 30, 2026); video posted by NRCC (@NRCC), X, *Biden & his allies gave America the worst inflation in our history*. (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://x.com/NRCC/status/2026487151618142707> (last visited July 30, 2026); video posted by NRCC (@NRCC), X, *Thank you President @realDonaldTrump for delivering "a turnaround for the ages"!* (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://x.com/NRCC/status/2026486623769072012> (last visited July 30, 2026).

← Post



Biden & his allies gave America the worst inflation in our history. President Trump turned it around. In just 12 months, core inflation dropped to a five-year low: 1.7% in the last three months of 2025. Democrats broke it. President Trump & House Republicans fixed it.



2:39 AM · Feb 25, 2026 · 1.1K Views

← Post



Thank you President [@realDonaldTrump](#) for delivering "a turnaround for the ages"!

"Inflation is plummeting"

"Our border is secure"

"We will never go back"



2:37 AM · Feb 25, 2026 · 976 Views

In short, NRCC's posting of these four clips of the House Floor constitutes partisan political activity and, like the photos posted to DemocratFacts.org, indicates a disregard for House Rules and the sanctity of the House Floor.

II. Legal Analysis

House Rules prohibit Members from using footage of House Floor proceedings "for any partisan political campaign purpose."¹⁶ They also prohibit Members from using footage of Committee proceedings "as partisan political campaign material to promote or oppose the candidacy of any person for elective public office."¹⁷ Guidance from the Committee on Ethics makes clear that the prohibition on using footage of the House Floor and committee hearings for partisan political purposes applies to still images, as well.¹⁸ Moreover, Members and their agents are explicitly prohibited from using footage from House Floor or Committee proceedings regardless of their source – meaning the prohibition extends not just to footage derived from the official House feeds, but also from C-SPAN or other third party news coverage.¹⁹ Finally, Members must at all times "adhere to the spirit and letter of the Rules of the House."²⁰

As Chair of the NRCC, Rep. Hudson is responsible for its actions and the communications it distributes to the public. By allowing the NRCC to repeatedly post footage taken of House Floor and Committee proceedings for partisan political purposes on its website and on its social media page, Rep. Hudson seems to have blatantly violated both the text and the spirit of House Rules designed to maintain the dignity, propriety, and decorum of the House and of official House

¹⁶ House R. V, cl. 2(c).

¹⁷ House R. XI, cl. 4(b).

¹⁸ Comm. on Ethics, Campaign Activity Guidance at 22-23 (July 30, 2024).

¹⁹ *Id.* at 22 (July 30, 2024) ("If such footage is embedded in a third-party article or news clip, the campaign may use the article or clip if otherwise appropriate but must first remove the prohibited footage.")

²⁰ House R. XXIII, cl. 2.

proceedings. Furthermore, to the extent that Rep. Hudson or the NRCC may have pulled the footage of the House Floor or Committee proceedings from C-SPAN or other third-party news sources – the Committee on Ethics is clear: that is still prohibited under House Rules.

III. Request for Action

I respectfully request that you commence an immediate investigation into this matter. Rep. Hudson and NRCC must not be permitted to continue to misuse images and videos from official House Floor and Committee proceedings. Immediate action is necessary to ensure that Rep. Hudson, in his leadership role with NRCC, complies with House Rules, the House Ethics Manual, and guidance from the Committee on Ethics.

In accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 1001, I affirm that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, all evidence submitted was not obtained in violation of any rule, law, or regulation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Lemek".

Brian Lemek
Defend The Vote, Executive Director
416 South Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC, 20003
9179033608
brian@wedefendthevote.org