February 17, 2025 Eric Babson babson@math.ucdavis.edu 1094 Cragmont Avenue Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about firings.

Federal work has historically attracted some of the best and brightest not with the pay but because of the security and satisfaction of helping others. Last week you began illegally and arbitrarily firing vast numbers of federal employees in a chaotic and poorly documented action targeting the ten percent with probationary status. The cruelty of this move is breathtaking. Letters that have been reported are short and vicious. Mass firings have been reported with half an hour to vacate the building. The head of the board for appeals has also been removed. The focus on new hires besides being scattershot means that those currently needed most are being lost. The result will be low morale and odd gaps in work coverage. Such demoralization spread all across the country weakens our society.

Please assure me that you will act with compassion. My pride in the US derives in part from our goodwill.

Most respectfully, Eric Babson