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January 24, 2022

Hon. Emmet G. Sullivan
United States District Court
District of Columbia
333 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

**RE: UNITED STATES V. JAMES BONET
CASE NO. 1:21-CR-121 (EGS)**

Dear Judge Sullivan:

I am writing to supplement the defense sentencing submission in support of a term of probation rather than incarceration for James Bonet. Attached is a guest opinion piece in the Syracuse newspaper written by James Walsh, an upstate New York long-standing member of the Republican party and retired congressman. In his editorial, former Congressman Walsh calls out his fellow Republicans who have bought into former President Donald Trump's biggest lie -- that the election was stolen.

"This is something out of a dictator's playbook," Walsh wrote. "It reminds me of how the Nazis convinced the population of Germany that they didn't lose World War I. If you think people aren't susceptible to this kind of thing, look back into history. It has happened time and again."

This reflection by a reputable member of the Republican party underscores how dangerous the Trump administration has been to our democracy. It's not just people like James Bonet who were bamboozled by Trump's rhetoric, but rather most of the elected Republicans were also supporting this nonsense. There are many people who deserve to be incarcerated for what happened on January 6, 2021, but James Bonet is not one of them. He lacked the education and sophistication to understand that he, like many others, were tricked into doing Trump's dirty work.

James has dedicated his future to learning from his mistake. Throughout this past year, he has affirmatively demonstrated that he would never again engage in this type of conduct.

Respectfully,
OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

By: *s/ LISA A. PEEBLES*
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cc. Alexis J. Loeb, AUSA (via CM/ECF)