

EXHIBIT A

The honorable John D Bates

United states district court for the District of Columbia

333 Constitution Ave.

Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Judge Bates,

I have had nearly 3 years to contemplate the content of this letter to you sir, but no matter how I run the words through my mind, I struggle. I have never been in a situation like this before so I'm afraid I just don't know the right words to use to fully paint the picture I am hoping you will be able to envision without expressing them with my voice. I worry that these letters are so frequent in your line of work, that I may come off as less than authentic. Saying that I am sorry for being in this situation doesn't seem enough, though it couldn't be any more true. Your honor, I have had nearly 3 years to reflect on the day my crime was undoubtedly committed, and I feel I need to start at the beginning so I can paint a better picture for you as to why I was there that day. The week before, I had been hearing about president Trumps final rally, I had my third child on the way (Judah) and I thought this would be a fun thing to go and witness before I was under the stress of a new baby. At the time I had a 6 year old and a 13 year old daughter who stayed home with their mother while I made the trip. I wanted to see the most powerful man in the world and the amazing city where the country I am so proud of was formed. I never had any intentions of being part of something that was so damaging to not only all of us as a nation, but also on the world stage. Your honor, I have spent nearly my entire life trying to paint myself as a reliable, considerate, generous person. Up until this point I feel as though I have been very successful in doing so. I have never done things for clout or for recognition, I had done these things because it felt good. I want to be known as a man that cares for his family and knows the difference between right and wrong. Unfortunately that is no longer the case, and I'm afraid it will never go back to the same way again. I'd like to express to you what I have personally been through the last three years and hopefully you will be able to understand the punishment I have already received throughout this process. Among many things, what has been the most damaging has been the embarrassment I have caused for my entire family and network of close friends. The constant feeling of shame. My 16 year old daughter has been pulled out of class by teachers and questioned, my 9 year old son has seen me on the news while eating breakfast, my wife has been questioned by peers, my sister almost refuses to talk to me. The news has painted me out to be some sort of animal, its been so bad that I have received calls threatening my life, saying I need to be hung in the street, and I should be tried for treason. I've had people directly influence my business by writing bad reviews and calling to tell me that they are spreading the word that I am an "insurrectionist". It has been so bad the last year that I have been afraid to enter the local grocery store because its like everyone hates me and I fear for my own safety and that of my family, constantly having to be aware of my surroundings. My children have come to me crying and have lost countless nights of sleep because of fear of my absence if I were to be sentenced to detention. I am not the same man I was 1 year ago, I've lost my spark. Every aspect of my life has changed and not for the good. I've found myself unable to perform daily tasks because my mind and heart just wont allow me to stop thinking about how much this has affected everyone I love. I can't imagine how the families of the people working in that building must have felt that day watching the events unfold. Daughters, sons,

mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles all wondering if their loved one was going to make it home safe that night. Absolutely unforgivable. All though my intentions were only driven by curiosity, I fully own that I was part of that power in numbers whether I knew it or not. Your honor, I had no idea what had transpired before I got there, I wasn't watching the news, I only knew of what was happening in those moments. It kills me to know that I had even a small part in controlling the fear those innocent people experienced. Sorry doesn't even begin to explain the feeling. I understand that I am being judged/sentenced in January based on picketing, parading, and demonstrating within the capital building, I also understand that this charge being on that infamous day will play a role in the decision making process. I wanted to make it known that I understand this and fully accept what ever decisions you make relating to the punishment. I love our country very much and have the most confidence in its systems and institutions, what ever you decide will not only be fulfilled, but also respected. I know as a person that I have grown from this and will move forward the best I can. Within your decision making process I humbly ask that you consider what my family has been through and what sort of roll my punishment will play in their life. I am the guilty party here; they are completely innocent, and I have put them through an enormous amount of stress already. My absence will greatly effect my 5 children, my pregnant wife, and my employees. I worry that probation will be an intrusion on my wife and children who again are innocent victims. My hopes are that you will allow me to transition back into normal society with as little impact to my family as possible. I agree that the severity of my offence warrants punishment, just as I would believe so as if it was someone other than myself receiving this charge. I just respectfully ask that it has as little impact on my love ones as possible. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity I was given to express my thoughts with you today and appreciate your willingness to consider the information supplied in this letter.

Respectfully,

David A. Ball Jr.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Ball Jr.', written in a cursive style.