

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20530

Dear General Bondi,

We, the undersigned state financial officers, write to convey our serious concerns regarding nationwide random and coordinated attacks on Tesla dealerships and cars. These incidents threaten public safety,<sup>1</sup> represent a willful violation of private property rights,<sup>2</sup> and have led to significant financial losses affecting millions of Americans.<sup>3</sup> The scope and impact of the vandalism is substantial and demands urgent attention.

We also want to thank you, the United States Department of Justice,<sup>4</sup> and President Trump<sup>5</sup> for already taking decisive action on the perpetrators of these acts. We also commend the Administration's swift

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Betz, Bradford. "FBI Tells Tesla Owners to Be Vigilant as Authorities Pinpoint Focus to Stop Violence: Former Agent." *Fox News*, 22 Mar. 2025, <u>https://www.foxnews.com/us/fbi-tells-tesla-owners-vigilant-authori,ties-pinpoint-focus-stop-violence-former-agent</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Cooper, Jonathan J., and Gene Johnson. "Attacks on Tesla Dealerships Spike as Musk Partners with White House." *Associated Press*, 19 Mar. 2025, <u>https://apnews.com/article/tesla-vandalism-musk-trump-domestic-extremism-7576c03393a733eaf34b793e86ad1a6f</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Stempel, Jonathan. "Tesla's Nightmare: Stock Crash, Billion-Dollar Payout, and a PR Crisis." *Yahoo Finance*, 22 Mar. 2025, <u>https://finance.yahoo.com/news/teslas-nightmare-stock-crash-billion-162704376.html</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Office of Public Affairs. (2025, March 20). Attorney General Pamela Bondi Announces Severe Charges Against Violent Tesla Arsonists. *U.S. Department of Justice*. Retrieved from https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-pamela-bondi-announces-severe-charges-against-violent-tesla-arsonists.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Trump, Donald J. (@realDonaldTrump). "People that get caught sabotaging Teslas will stand a very good chance of going to jail for up to twenty years, and that includes the funders. WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!!! " Truth Social, 21 Mar. 2025, <u>https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/114198218638202475</u>.

action in launching the Federal Bureau of Investigation's task force<sup>6</sup> to apprehend those involved in this criminal activity and to pursue prosecution of all those responsible.

Finally, we are calling on elected officials to explicitly call these attacks what they are: domestic terrorism. Making it plain that acts of violence in the name of political disagreement have no place in our civil discourse is critical to a healthy society. Every elected official should use their platform to do so.

These attacks are not just politically charged,<sup>7</sup> they undermine the financial well-being of the public servants who dedicate their lives to the betterment of our society and affect the long-term financial growth of our state pension systems and other state treasury investments.<sup>8</sup> Many state investment funds, including public pensions that hold the retirement savings of our public school teachers, first responders, and police officers, are invested in Tesla<sup>9</sup> for good reason. As of December 31, 2024, Tesla employs over 125,000 workers,<sup>10</sup> and, before these incidents began in late January 2025,<sup>11</sup> was valued at roughly \$1.3 trillion and trading at over \$400 per share.<sup>12</sup> Since these attacks started, Tesla's stock has plummeted.<sup>13</sup> It is unconscionable that the financial well-being of our public school teachers and police officers, and all beneficiaries of our state treasury funds – to say nothing of those whose personal property has been vandalized – has become collateral damage of rage politics and violent actions.

As elected officials and stewards of the public's trust and financial resources, it is our responsibility to call out radical elements of society that seek to use violence as a form of political and economic persuasion. Unfortunately, too many elected officials have either been silent on the Tesla attacks or have actively encouraged them.<sup>14</sup> That must end immediately.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and your commitment to protecting individual property rights, the critical infrastructure of a great American company, and the financial well-being of so many hard-working Americans.

https://www.financecharts.com/stocks/TSLA/summary/market-cap.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Steinbuch, Yaron. "FBI Launches Task Force to Nail Criminals Behind Fiery Tesla Attacks." *New York Post*, 24 Mar. 2025, <u>https://nypost.com/2025/03/24/us-news/fbi-launches-task-force-to-nail-criminals-behind-fiery-tesla-attacks/</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Castronuovo, Celine. "FBI Issues Warning Ahead of Planned Tesla Protest over Elon Musk." *Newsweek*, 22 Mar. 2025, <u>https://www.newsweek.com/fbi-warning-tesla-protest-elon-musk-2049465</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Belmonte, Adrian. "Tesla Stock Falls as Pension Fund Fears Grow over Elon Musk's Influence." *AOL*, 22 Mar. 2025, <u>https://www.aol.com/tesla-stock-falls-pension-fund-090420399.html</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Barrabi, Thomas. "Dem Gov. Tim Walz Cheers Tesla Stock Tumble — Even Though MN State Employees' Pension Owns Over 1M Shares." *Fox News*, 22 Mar. 2025, <u>https://www.foxnews.com/politics/tim-walz-cheers-tesla-stock-tumble-mn-state-employees-pension-owns-over-1m-shares</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> "Tesla (TSLA) Employee Count." Stock Analysis, <u>https://stockanalysis.com/stocks/tsla/employees/</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> McCabe, Riley. "The Escalating Attacks on Tesla Facilities." *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 20 Mar. 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Tesla Inc (TSLA) Market Capitalization." FinanceCharts,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Kilgore, Tomi. "Tesla's Stock Is Having Its Worst Stretch Ever, and the Bad News Keeps Coming." *MarketWatch*, 21 Mar. 2025, <u>https://www.marketwatch.com/story/teslas-stock-is-having-its-worst-stretch-ever-and-the-bad-news-keeps-coming-742b5286</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> *Fox News*. "Pam Bondi Warns Rep. Jasmine Crockett to Tread Carefully after Call for Elon Musk to Be 'Taken Down'." *Fox News*, 22 Mar. 2025, <u>https://www.foxnews.com/media/pam-bondi-warns-rep-jasmine-crockett-tread-carefully-call-elon-musk-taken-down</u>.

Sincerely,

J. andrew Sovell

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