

ERIC BURLISON  
7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MISSOURI

Oversight and Government Reform  
Committee

Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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May 7, 2026

Dr. Melissa G. Choi  
Director  
MIT Lincoln Laboratory  
244 Wood Street  
Lexington, MA 02421

Mr. David A. Suski  
Counsel  
MIT Lincoln Laboratory  
244 Wood Street  
Lexington, MA 02421

Dear Dr. Choi and Mr. Suski:

I write concerning a reel-to-reel recording identified as “AF-ATIC-FILM, 03/52” from the Beacon Hill Study, labeled “flying saucer talk,” with Edward J. Ruppelt listed as the briefer. Based on the presently available description, this item appears to be a potentially significant historical record bearing directly on the federal government’s early handling of unidentified aerial- or anomalous phenomena-related matters.

This request is not limited solely to the specific reel-to-reel recording identified above. To the extent MIT Lincoln Laboratory, or any affiliated archive, records repository, laboratory office, or successor custodial entity possesses additional records relating to the Beacon Hill Study, related briefings on “flying saucer” or unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP), or other work performed for or funded by the United States government concerning UAP, anomalous aerospace objects, or analogous subject matter, I request that such records likewise be identified, preserved, and described to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). This includes, but is not limited to, audio recordings, motion-picture film, transcripts, briefing materials, memoranda, correspondence, technical reports, accession records, inventories, metadata, classification guidance, and declassification review records.

Sections 1841–1843 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, now codified at 44 U.S.C. § 2107 note, require the identification, review, organization, and transmission of UAP records to the NARA for inclusion in the UAP Records Collection. NARA’s published guidance makes clear that the collection encompasses copies of all government, government-provided, or government-funded records relating to UAP and equivalent subject matter. To the extent this recording, any duplicate, or any related transcript, summary, inventory entry, finding aid, or metadata remains in the custody, possession, or control of MIT Lincoln Laboratory, it should be treated as potentially responsive to that statutory framework and preserved accordingly.

Therefore, I request that MIT Lincoln Laboratory immediately determine whether the recording is extant; identify its current custodial status; preserve the original medium and all associated documentation; and, if the recording is located, arrange for preservation-grade digitization and transmission of the resulting digital copy and

associated metadata to NARA for inclusion in Record Group 615, the UAP Records Collection.

If MIT Lincoln Laboratory concludes that the recording remains subject to an active Security Classification Guide, contract-security instrument, or other classification control, I request that you promptly coordinate with the cognizant federal sponsor, the appropriate original classification authority, the NARA Information Security Oversight Office, and the Public Interest Declassification Board to facilitate review for declassification, downgrade, or other action necessary to enable lawful archival transfer and eventual public release. At a minimum, the item's existence, status, and controlling equities should be documented and transmitted to NARA so that the record is formally accounted for within the UAP statutory review process.

Please also institute an immediate preservation hold on any and all records relating to this item, including but not limited to accession records, audio logs, inventories, correspondence, memoranda, laboratory files, records schedules, contract deliverables, classification determinations, declassification referrals, and prior duplication or digitization efforts. Destruction, alteration, or unmanaged disposition of potentially responsive material would be inconsistent with the transparency and archival purposes reflected in federal law and guidance.

Please provide a written response no later than 30 days from receipt of this letter addressing: (1) whether the recording identified as "AF-ATIC-FLIM, 03/52" exists; (2) whether MIT Lincoln Laboratory, or any affiliated repository, possesses the original recording, a duplicate, a transcript, or related metadata; (3) whether the recording has been digitized and, if so, when and in what format; (4) whether the item has been referred or transmitted to NARA for inclusion in the UAP Records Collection; (5) whether any active classification, security, contractual, export-control, or access restriction currently applies; and (6) what concrete steps MIT Lincoln Laboratory will take to coordinate with the relevant federal authorities regarding preservation, review, transfer, and declassification.

For staff-level coordination regarding this request, please contact Aaron Jenks, Legislative Assistant in my office, at [Aaron.Jenks@mail.house.gov](mailto:Aaron.Jenks@mail.house.gov).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Eric Burlison  
Member of Congress

cc: Michael D. Thomas, Director, Information Security Oversight Office, National Archives and Records Administration