

## Closing:

*Tonight's testimony and evidence is as sobering as it is straightforward. Within minutes of stepping off the Ellipse stage, Donald Trump knew about the violent attack on the Capitol. From the comfort of his dining room, he watched on TV as the attack escalated. He sent tweets that inflamed, and expressed support for the desire of some to literally kill Vice President Mike Pence. For three hours he refused to call off the attack.*

*Donald Trump refused to take the urgent advice he received that day. Not from his political opponents or the liberal media, but from his own family, friends, staff, and advisers. In the midst of an attack, when there was no time for politics, the people closest to Trump told him the truth: it was his supporters attacking the Capitol, and he alone could get through to them. So they pled for him to act, to place his country above himself. Still, he refused to lead and meet the moment—to honor his oath.*

*It was only once the Vice President and the Members of Congress were in secure locations, and the officers defending the Capitol began to turn the tide, that Trump engaged in the political theater of telling the mob to go home. And even then, he said they were "special" and he "loved" them.*

*Whatever your politics, whatever you think about the outcome of the election, we as Americans must all agree on this: Donald Trump's conduct on January 6th was a supreme violation of his oath of office, and a complete dereliction of his duty to our Nation. It is a stain on our history. It is a dishonor to all those who have sacrificed and died in service of our democracy.*

*When we present our full findings this Fall, we will recommend changes to laws and policies to guard against another January 6th. The reason that's imperative is that the forces Donald Trump ignited that day have not gone away. The militant, intolerant ideologies—the militias, the alienation, and the disaffection—the weird fantasies and disinformation. They're all still out there, ready to go. That's the "elephant in the room."*

*But if January 6th has reminded us of anything, I pray it has reminded us of this: laws are just words on paper. They mean nothing without public servants dedicated to the rule of law, and who are held accountable by a public that believes oaths matter more than party tribalism and the cheap thrill of scoring political points.*

*We the people must demand more of our politicians and ourselves. Oaths matter. Character matters. Truth matters. If we do not renew our faith and commitment to these principles, this great experiment of ours, our shining beacon on a hill, will not endure.*