

# U.S. House of Representatives

## Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC 20515-6216

One Hundred Fifteenth Congress

May 24, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to seek information concerning the nature and extent of any benefits or rewards, financial or otherwise that you have received from any foreign government or its agents or instrumentalities.

We were disappointed to learn today that in its response to a bipartisan request for foreign emolument information from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the Trump Organization indicated it would be “impractical” to “fully and completely identify all patronage” at the Organization’s properties.<sup>1</sup> As a result, it is now all the more important that we ask you directly to provide an accounting of items constituting a “present” or “Emolument” from foreign governments, their agents, and instrumentalities as set forth below.

The Foreign Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution provides that “no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under [the United States], shall, **without the Consent of the Congress**, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.”<sup>2</sup> The Clause was designed to ensure that our Nation’s leaders would not be corrupted by foreign influence or favor their own financial interests over the national interest. To this end, it specifically prohibits any federal officer from accepting any “present” or “Emolument” from any foreign government unless Congress first consents to such acceptance.

Both the Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel and your own attorneys at Morgan Lewis have acknowledged that the Foreign Emoluments Clause applies to the President of the United States.

It appears to be undisputed that prior to assuming office, you held business interests in many foreign countries, and you and your businesses had many interactions

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<sup>1</sup> Trump Donation of Profits from Foreign Government Patronage, at 4 (undated), available at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/documents/Trump%20Org%20Pamphlet%20on%20Foreign%20Profits.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Const. Art. I, § 9, cl. 8 (emphasis added).

with foreign governments. Although subsequent to your election, you stated that you would place your financial interests in the Trump Organization and other businesses in a trust and that you would turn over management of the Trump Organization to your sons, we understand the trust agreement you signed actually allows you to withdraw profits and holdings from the trust at any time.

Based on the foregoing, we ask that you submit to us a full accounting of all items that may constitute a “present” or “Emolument” that you have received or anticipate receiving from a foreign government or its agent or instrumentality. To the extent any requested information is not within your control or knowledge because it pertains to matter that is subject to a trust created for which you are the beneficiary, then this inquiry is directed to the trustee(s) of such trust.

Accordingly, please provide responses to the following specific requests.

### **General**

1. Since 12:00 p.m. EST on January 20, 2017, have you received any present or emolument from a foreign government or its agent or instrumentality?
  - A. If yes, please identify the nature of any such present or emolument, the date on which such present or emolument was made, the value of such present or emolument, and the source of such present or emolument.

### **Position**

2. Please identify, for the period of 12:00 p.m. EST on January 20, 2017 to the present, each business in which you are or were an officer, director, partner, or managing executive [whether a corporation, partnership, joint venture, or any other business] that transacted business with a foreign government or agent or instrumentality of a foreign government, regardless of whether such business is or was held in trust for your benefit.
  - A. For each such business, identify the nature of each such transaction, including the name of the foreign government or agent or instrumentality of a foreign government, the amount of each payment received from such source, and each date on which such payment was received.
  - B. Provide a copy of any writing prepared in connection with such transaction, such as any contractual agreement, term sheet, or prospectus.
  - C. For each such business, identify whether any other officer, director, partner, or managing executive is or was a foreign government or the agent of a foreign government during the period of 12:00 p.m. EST on January 20, 2017 to the present.

### **Business Ownership Interests and Operations**

3. Please identify, for the period of 12:00 p.m. EST on January 20, 2017 to the present, each business in which you have or had any ownership interest, including voting or equity securities, that received any payment from a foreign government or an agent or instrumentality of a foreign government, regardless of whether such business is or was held in trust for your benefit.
  - A. For each such business, identify the source, the amount of each payment, the purpose of each payment, and the date on which such payment was received.
  - B. For each such business, identify whether it is seeking or has obtained the approval of a foreign government or agent or instrumentality of a foreign government for the purpose of conducting business.
  - C. For each such business, identify whether any foreign government or agent or instrumentality of a foreign government provided any goods, services or any other benefit to that business at a cost below market price.

### **Trademark, License, and Other Intellectual Property Interests**

4. Please identify, for the period of 12:00 p.m. EST on January 20, 2017 to the present, any foreign government approvals of trademarks, licenses, or other intellectual property in which you or your businesses have or had any ownership interest.
5. Please identify any application for a trademark, license, or other intellectual property interest in which you have any ownership interest that is pending before a foreign government or agent or instrumentality of a foreign government.
  - A. For each such trademark, license, or intellectual property application, identify the date the application was submitted to the foreign government and current status of such application.

### **Foreign Deals**

6. Your attorney, Sheri Dillion, stated at a press conference on January 11, 2017 that “[n]o new foreign deals will be made whatsoever during the duration of President Trump’s presidency.” For the period of 12:00 p.m. EST on January 20, 2017 to the present, have you or any business in which you have an interest entered into any transactions with a foreign government or agent or instrumentality of a foreign government?

### **Donation of Foreign Government Payments**

7. Your attorney, Sheri Dillion, stated at press conference on January 11, 2017 that you would “voluntarily donate all profits from foreign government payments made to [your] hotel to the United States Treasury.”
  - A. Has this commitment been reduced to writing? If so, please provide a copy.
  - B. Please identify which hotel(s) to which this commitment applies.
  - C. Please describe each payment received by the applicable hotels from a foreign government or agent or instrumentality of a foreign government, including the date of receipt, amount of payment, a description of the purpose of such payment, the source of such payment, and date it was transmitted to the U.S. Treasury.

### **Trust**

8. Your attorney, Sheri Dillion, stated at a press conference on January 11, 2017 that your “investments and business assets commonly known as the — as the Trump Organization, comprising hundreds of entities . . . have all been or will be conveyed to a trust prior to January 20th.”
  - A. Have you received any payment from this trust since it was established? If so, please set forth the amount of any such payments.

### **Creditor Transactions**


9. Are you or any business in which you have an interest required (contractually or otherwise) to pay a financial obligation to a foreign government or an agent or instrumentality of a foreign government?
  - A. If so, please identify each such financial obligation, including date incurred, amount owed, to whom the obligation is owed, and terms of payment.
  - B. With respect to such terms of payment, please identify those that were modified at any point during the period of 12:00 p.m. EST on January 20, 2017 to the present, including a detailed description of the modification and reason therefore.
  - C. Have any of these contractual obligations been the subject of litigation either domestically or in any other venue during the period of 12:00 p.m.


EST on January 20, 2017 to the present? If so, please describe the status of such litigation, including any settlement agreements.

- D. Has any foreign government or agent or instrumentality of a foreign government forgiven or reduced the amount of any such financial obligation? If so, please detail any such modification.
- E. Has any foreign government or agent or instrumentality of a foreign government reduced the contractual interest rate for any such financial obligation? If so, please detail any such modification.
- F. Has any foreign government or agent or instrumentality of a foreign government extended the repayment period or reduced the payments due under the financial obligation?

We respectfully ask that you submit any full or partial responses to the foregoing requests to House Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,

  
**John Conyers, Jr.**  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

  
**Jerrold Nadler**  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual  
Property, and the Internet

  
**Zoe Lofgren**  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Immigration and  
Border Security

  
**Sheila Jackson Lee**  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,  
Homeland Security, and  
Investigations



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**Steve Cohen**  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Constitution  
and Civil Justice



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**David N. Cicilline**  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Regulatory  
Reform, Commercial and Antitrust  
Law



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**Jamie Raskin**  
Vice-Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Donald McGahn, White House Counsel  
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee