

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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March 18, 2026

The Honorable John A. Squires  
Director  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Director Squires:

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has historically enjoyed public confidence in its objectivity and credibility, and I sincerely hope you intend to continue this legacy. Unfortunately, recent filings suggest the USPTO is being used to hide the individuals and entities who exercise control over the billions of dollars foreign governments have been pouring into Donald Trump's recently created "Board of Peace."

Leaked text of this curious institution's charter shows that Donald Trump, as Chair, has virtually unlimited control over the Board and its finances.<sup>1</sup> Although a United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution has "welcome[d] the establishment of the Board of Peace," the UN appears to have no role in its operation and no oversight power.<sup>2</sup> To date, nine countries—Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, and Kuwait—have pledged \$7 billion to fund the Board of Peace. And President Trump has promised to transfer \$10 billion in U.S. taxpayer funds to the Board, although Congress has appropriated no money for this entity.<sup>3</sup> From all outward appearances, the Board of Peace appears to operate as an unregulated, unchecked, and unsupervised international slush

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<sup>1</sup> Mike Mattler, *Establishing the Board of Peace: Key Questions About the Launch of the Trump Administration's New Peace-Building Initiative*, JUST SECURITY (Feb. 9, 2026), <https://www.justsecurity.org/130867/board-of-peace-key-questions/>.

<sup>2</sup> Jacob Magid, *Full text: Charter of Trump's Board of Peace*, TIMES OF ISRAEL (Jan. 18, 2026), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-charter-of-trumps-board-of-peace/>.

<sup>3</sup> Chantal Da Silva et al., *Trump Vows \$10 Billion from U.S. for his Board of Peace as He Leans into Global Role*, NBC NEWS (Feb. 19, 2026), <https://www.nbcnews.com/world/gaza/trump-board-of-peace-first-meeting-gaza-un-israel-rcna259509>; Amy Walker & Tom Bateman, *Trump's Board of Peace Members Pledge \$7bn in Gaza Relief*, BBC (Feb. 19, 2026), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp8rke05kv4o>; Robert Maguire & Rebecca Jacobs, *Trump Likely Benefited from \$13.6 Million in Payments from Foreign Governments During His Presidency*, CREW (Sept. 17, 2024), <https://www.citizensforethics.org/reports-investigations/crew-reports/trump-likely-benefited-from-13-6-million-in-payments-from-foreign-governments-during-his-presidency/>.

fund controlled by Donald Trump, in violation of U.S. law, including notably the Foreign and Domestic Emoluments Clauses of the U.S. Constitution.<sup>4</sup>

Last month, the USPTO appears to have been used to help conceal the true legal structure and ownership of the Board of Peace when it filed two unprecedented trademark applications: one for the wordmark “Board of Peace,” and another for the logo graphic for the “Board of Peace.” The application asserts that the USPTO “is using and stewarding the mark on an interim basis to provide information, advisory, coordination, and anti-fraud services, and to prevent misuse, false association, and deception during the period prior to the formal establishment of that organization.”<sup>5</sup> However, the application discloses no information about the entities or individuals on whose behalf the USPTO purports to be acting. These applications, which are almost certainly invalid under the Lanham Act, raise serious concerns that the USPTO is being used to conceal the existence of legal and financial structures designed to funnel money to the President for his unilateral use and discretion outside of proper constitutional channels

Apart from its applications on behalf of the Board of Peace, the USPTO owns just seven trademarks; all of them are for USPTO-specific names and logos that your institution uses in commerce, and include a mark for the name “United States Patent and Trademark Office” and your agency’s “Buy Smart” educational campaign. Despite registering trademarks related to the “Board of Peace,” the USPTO has no discernible interest or involvement with this inscrutable and mysterious entity. Section 1051(a) of Title 15, known as the Lanham Act, specifies that only the “owner of a trademark used in commerce may request registration of its trademark on the principal register” and 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(4) restricts agency ownership to property “necessary to carry out its functions.” Because the Board of Peace is not an agency of the USPTO and the USPTO has no control or involvement in the Board of Peace, the USPTO cannot be the legal owner of the trademark. Moreover, these applications create a clear conflict of interest. The USPTO purports to be both the applicant and the adjudicator. A patent examiner deciding to reject the application would be forced to overrule an application submitted by their boss’s boss. The cardinal principle of our law, as James Madison observed, is no party can be a judge in its own case.

Beyond these fundamental legal contradictions, the applications that the USPTO filed on behalf of the Board of Peace appear not to meet the basic requirements for a trademark. The USPTO adopted the Nice Classification (NCL) system for trademarks set forth in the “Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks,” in 1973. The trademark applications at issue are filed under class 041<sup>6</sup> (educational materials) and class 045<sup>7</sup> (personal and legal services). Class 41 applications must be more than just the name of a board or initiative and be in continuous use providing

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Const. art. I, §. 9, Cl. 8. (“No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, 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>5</sup> U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Trademark Application Serial No. 76720938 (filed Dec. 30, 2025).

<sup>6</sup> World Intellectual Property Organization, Nice Classification Class 41, [https://nclpub.wipo.int/enfr/?basic\\_numbers=show&class\\_number=41](https://nclpub.wipo.int/enfr/?basic_numbers=show&class_number=41) (last visited Mar. 16, 2026)

<sup>7</sup> World Intellectual Property Organization, Nice Classification Class 45, [https://nclpub.wipo.int/enfr/?basic\\_numbers=show&class\\_number=45](https://nclpub.wipo.int/enfr/?basic_numbers=show&class_number=45) (last visited Mar. 16, 2026)

services. Similarly, Class 45 marks must involve specific legal and other similar services provided beyond the applicant's organization and cannot merely name a board.

Both classes require the services to be used in actual commerce; they cannot be abstract concepts or names of a board. In fact, when a trademark application identifies something that is not a "good" or "service" in commerce, the USPTO must refuse registration because there is no registrable subject matter under the Lanham Act. There is no evidence that these applications adhere to even the most basic requirements for a trademark.

Finally, government ownership of trademarks must be treated with care, because the registration of a trademark would allow the government to penalize those who attempt to use it. Individuals who seek to satirize the term "Board of Peace" might be less likely to do so after learning of this application, out of fear of legal action from the government. Trademarks exist to protect consumers and businesses. They do not exist to silence objectors to a governmental administration, and they should not be used to stifle free political expression, explicitly or implicitly.

The questions raised by these applications demand urgent responses. Accordingly, I ask that you please respond to the following requests for information by 5:00 p.m. on March 25, 2026:

1. Who made the decision that the USPTO would file the two trademark applications related to the Board of Peace?
2. Please provide a list of all individuals involved in any discussions regarding these trademark applications, both within and outside of the USPTO, including, but not limited to, the White House, the Department of State, the office of White House Special Envoy to the Middle East, and Jared Kushner.
3. Please provide all correspondence discussing these two trademarks.
4. Trademark applications under the Lanham Act need to be, or have the intent to be, used in commerce by the USPTO. Please describe how the Board of Peace mark will be used in commerce.
5. The Board of Peace application indicates the USPTO is the temporary owner. Who are the intended recipients of the Board of Peace mark?
6. How long does the USPTO intend to be the owner of the Board of Peace trademark?
7. Does the USPTO intend to enforce any trademark resulting from these applications? Please describe any plans for trademark enforcement.

8. How will the examiner assigned to this application be protected from retaliation if they reject the application? Are there plans to anonymize the examiner? Will you, as the Director of the USPTO, recuse yourself from the examination process?
9. According to the Board of Peace filings, the USPTO “is using and stewarding the mark on an interim basis to provide information, advisory, coordination, and anti-fraud services, and to prevent misuse, false association, and deception during the period prior to the formal establishment of that organization.”<sup>8</sup> Please describe these stewardship activities and how they fall into use in commerce.

I look forward to your prompt compliance with this important oversight request.

Very truly yours,

  
Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

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<sup>8</sup> U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Trademark Application Serial No. 76720938 (filed Dec. 30, 2025).