

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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May 5, 2026

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

Dear Director Squires:

I have had some time to reflect on our brief colloquy during your appearance before the House Judiciary Committee on March 25, 2026.

I confess that, in the wake of your inability to answer the most basic questions about this baffling situation, your decision to personally apply to register the “Board of Peace” trademark, apparently on behalf of President Donald Trump, makes even *less* sense to me now than it did before your appearance.

Indeed, your answers have created a host of urgent and proliferating questions that many Americans are asking me and that our Committee needs to address. As you could see from Representative Darrell Issa’s public statements at the hearing, the interest in this extraordinary affair is of a bipartisan nature. I have spoken in the weeks following the hearing not just to Democratic Members and staff who urgently want answers but also to Republicans. The fact that Rep. Issa will not be with us next year does not mean that this matter is going away.

The basic questions remain: What is the Board of Peace, and why has the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) chosen to violate essential tenets of the Lanham Act and standard USPTO operating procedures to personally register its trademark in commerce?

Your incoherent answers may reflect ignorance of the broader factual and legal context, rather than deliberate unwillingness to tell Congress the truth. So, I must ask an even more pointed question.

Are you a *willing accomplice* to President Trump’s efforts to cover up that his “Board of Peace” is an attempt to create a secretive private slush fund with billions of U.S. taxpayer and foreign government dollars, or are you an *unwitting enabler* to this scheme being forced to do the President’s bidding outside your lawful duties and powers?

The State Department has transferred \$1.25 billion in taxpayer dollars to President Trump’s “Board of Peace.” That is extraordinary and likely unlawful. Yet, we still do not know what the Board of Peace is, and you could not tell us, confessing ignorance of the most basic facts of its existence and of the essential character of this entity that you wish to protect under the trademark laws. Is it a private entity or a government entity? Is it based in the United States or is it based abroad? Does its “Chairman for Life” Donald Trump have unfettered personal control over the Board’s finances in perpetuity?¹

The Board of Peace’s name and logo have been registered with the USPTO. However, instead of being required to apply for its own trademark, as explicitly required under Section 1051(b) of the Lanham Act, which requires “that the person making the verification believes that he or she, or the juristic person in whose behalf he or she makes the verification, to be entitled to use the mark in commerce,” you stepped in to act as a straw trademark holder for President Trump’s Board of Peace.

I asked you about your decision to use the USPTO to cover up the true legal status and ownership of the Board of Peace. As you struggled to articulate an intelligible defense of this decision, you assured the Committee—under oath—that the USPTO was acting on a “custodial” basis. Where in the trademark registration is one entity or one person authorized to register a trademark acting as “custodian” for another? Has this ever happened before? Has any USPTO Director ever registered a trademark for the President or another person before?

“We are not the owner,” you said. “It will be transferred to the entity once it is formed.”² Yet we see no evidence that the USPTO has transferred the pending trademark application to any other entity.

It is true that *some entity* is receiving and controlling \$1.25 billion in taxpayer funds. But it is not the USPTO. *So who is it?* Are you in on this startling cover-up or are you just being used as a pawn in the dark to Donald Trump’s scheme to funnel taxpayer dollars into his shadowy personal slush fund?³

¹ Eleanor Mueller, *Exclusive / State Department Sends \$1.25B From Other Programs to Board of Peace*, SEMAFOR (Mar. 26, 2026), <https://www.semafor.com/article/03/26/2026/state-department-sends-125b-in-foreign-aid-to-board-of-peace>; Robbie Gramer & Summer Said, *Trump’s Board of Peace to Pledge \$5 Billion to Rebuild Gaza*, WALL ST. JOURNAL (Feb. 18, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/trumps-board-of-peace-to-pledge-5-billion-to-rebuild-gaza-16a49cfb>; Michael Mattler, *Some Questions for Congress About Trump’s Request for Funding for the Board of Peace*, JUST SECURITY (Apr. 13, 2026), <https://www.justsecurity.org/136200/questions-congress-board-of-peace/>.

² Transcript, *Oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office*, Hearing before the H. Judiciary Comm., Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence and the Internet, (Mar. 25, 2026), at 52.

³ While we understand that the World Bank has agreed to set up a Financial Intermediary Fund to receive and disburse certain funds on behalf of the Board of Peace, the World Bank has made clear it is acting merely as a pass-through that “will receive funds from Contributors and transfer them to the Board of Peace, independent of the World Bank, that will have established its own governance and operating structure and arrangements.” Importantly, the World Bank has “no responsibility or accountability, fiduciary or otherwise, for the use of the funds after they have been transferred to a recipient” and has emphasized the “Board of Peace will operate wholly independently of the World Bank and will establish its own governance and operating structure and arrangements, including processes for decision-making on requests for, and applications and uses of [funds].” World Bank, *Establishment of a Financial Intermediary Fund for Gaza Reconstruction and Development* (Nov. 20, 2025),

Given that you seem to be at a loss for answers and words, can we agree now it was foolish to use the USPTO to register this trademark in the first place? The Lanham Act categorically does not allow for application on behalf of another, even if that other is the President of the United States. When I asked you if I could get another company to apply for a trademark on my behalf, you responded “If you are the President of the United States, yes.”⁴ You later appeared to contradict this statement by telling us you were, “[N]ot representing the President of the United States in this regard,” saying, “I was representing a—filing an application to address a cybersquatting issue under my authority under 35 U.S.C.”⁵ This is plainly incoherent. The USPTO may be interested in preventing cybersquatting, but that does not authorize it to take over the registration of private entities’ trade names on their behalf.

You repeatedly relied on this authority, pointing us to “35 U.S.C. Section 3, where it is the Under Secretary of Commerce and Director of the Patent Office shall advise the President on national and certain international intellectual property policies.”⁶ There is no such provision in 35 U.S.C. Section 3. Notably, 35 U.S.C. Section 2(b)(8), on the other hand, stipulates that the *USPTO* “shall advise the President, through the Secretary of Commerce, on national and certain international intellectual property policy issues.” It is bizarre to think that anyone would read “advice on policy issues” as a blank check to violate governing trademark law. There is no exception to the law for the President, just as there is no exception to the law for the wealthy and well-connected, just as there is no exception for you or me or Donald J. Trump as individual persons.

You owe this Committee some real answers and explanations—let us not dawdle and prevaricate. Accordingly, I ask that you please respond to the following requests for information—including questions from my March 18, 2026, letter, that you still have not replied to—by 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2026:

1. Do you know what entity will have authority over the \$1.25 billion in taxpayer funds transferred from the State Department to the Board of Peace?
2. How will you know when a legal entity has been formed to assume operations and responsibility for the Board of Peace? Have you made any inquiries about the status of any such legal entity to date? If so, to whom have you directed those inquiries? Who is your contact there in the know? Will you have a role in administering this entity?

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099112125105517915/pdf/BOSIB-d55fb765-9bc7-4312-941a-3e1eb65b556e.pdf>; Zaha Hassan & Charles H. Johnson, *The Board of Peace and Funding for Gaza Reconstruction: On Whose Account?*, CARNEGIE RUSSIA EURASIA CTR. (Mar. 16, 2026), <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2026/03/the-board-of-peace-and-funding-for-gaza-reconstruction-on-whose-account>.

⁴ Transcript, *Oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office*, Hearing before the H. Judiciary Comm., Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence and the Internet, (Mar. 25, 2026), at 49-50.

⁵ *Id.* at 50.

⁶ *Id.*

3. Are you representing the President of the United States in the applications for the Board of Peace marks? If not, who precisely are you representing?
4. Did you prepare the trademark application yourself? If not, who prepared the trademark application and—if not the USPTO—what organization are they affiliated with?
5. When do you plan to transfer the Board of Peace Trademark to the Board of Peace, Donald Trump, or another representative of the Board of Peace? Why have you not yet transferred the application? Who will decide the timing of this transfer?
6. Please explain your legal rationale for interpreting 35 U.S.C. Section 2(b)(8) as allowing the Director of the USPTO to apply for a trademark on behalf of the President of the United States. Provide any memorandum or written legal analysis that was done on your behalf, on behalf of the USPTO, or on behalf of the Board of Peace about your legal authority to apply on behalf of another person or entity before you acted to do so.
 - a. Does 35 U.S.C. Section 2(b)(8) also allow the Director of the USPTO to apply for personal trademarks for the President and his businesses? If not, please explain how “Chairman for Life” does not convert the Board of Peace to Donald Trump’s personal affairs.
 - b. Does 35 U.S.C. Section 2(b)(8) allow the Director of the USPTO to ignore the provisions for 15 U.S.C. 1051 or any other laws? Please explain.
 - c. If you are not representing the President of the United States, please explain how 35 U.S.C. Section 2(b)(8) applies to your applications for a trademark for the Board of Peace.

Additionally, please respond to the following questions first advanced by my letter dated March 18, 2026, none of which you responded to or suitably addressed during your appearance before the Committee but which now take on even more complexity and urgency:

7. Who made the decision that the USPTO would file the two trademark applications related to the Board of Peace? Please identify them and provide any communications between you and them.
8. 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.
9. Please provide all correspondence discussing these two trademarks.

10. 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.”
11. The Board of Peace application indicates the USPTO is the temporary owner. Who precisely are the intended recipients of the Board of Peace mark?
12. How long does the USPTO intend to be the owner of the Board of Peace trademark? What are the rules of the USPTO governing “custodial” control of a trademark?
13. Does the USPTO intend to enforce any trademark resulting from these applications? Please describe any plans for trademark enforcement. Are there any limits to the number of “custodial” trademarks the USPTO will issue on behalf of the President?
14. How will the examiner assigned to this application be protected from retaliation if they reject the application from the Director? Are there plans to anonymize the examiner? Will you, as the Director of the USPTO, recuse yourself from the examination process and any appeals?
15. In the likely event that any existing trademark owner whose prior use predates the Trump application (like World Peace Table, World Peace Network, Universal Peace Plan, Global Peace Initiative, Global Peace Foundation, Universal Peace Federation, International Peace Center, the Peace House, Peace Network, Peace Action, Global Alliance for Peace, the Peace Trust) opposes the application (or seeks to cancel the mark after the fact), how will you ensure that the opposition proceeding will not be tainted by your conflict of interest as purported owner and agent for President Trump?
16. How would you propose to defend your agency’s handling of such an adversary proceeding against a pre-enforcement challenge to the conflicted structure of your agency under *Axon Enterprise, Inc. v. Federal Trade Commission*, 598 U.S. 175 (2023)?
17. 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.”⁷ Please describe these stewardship activities and how they fall into use “in commerce.” Has the USPTO ever granted a trademark to an entity whose entire business plan and purpose is simply to obtain and hold that trademark for a future owner? Is that now allowable under your reading of the Lanham Act? Is this allowable only for

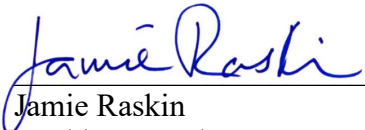
⁷ U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Trademark Application Serial No. 76720938 (filed Dec. 30, 2025).

the President and, if so, are there any limits to the number of entities that can be granted an “interim” trademark on a “custodial” basis on behalf of the President?

18. On what grounds did the USPTO waive the application fee for the Board of Peace? Had the \$1.25 billion from American taxpayers not arrived yet?

Thank you in advance for your prompt compliance with this important oversight request.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman