

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Frank Bisignano
Chief Executive Officer
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Secretary Bessent, Acting Attorney General Blanche, and CEO Bisignano:

The American people and the world just witnessed one of the most brazen acts of public corruption and self-dealing in American history. The Department of Justice (DOJ) recently announced that you settled Donald Trump’s sham lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), a collusive lawsuit in which the President sued an agency under his own control on preposterous and repeatedly debunked theories. Rather than protect the public fisc from obvious plunder, this DOJ and IRS caved and agreed to establish an “Anti-Weaponization Fund” (“Fund”)¹ with a staggering \$1.776 billion of taxpayer money.²

Moreover, the United States is “FOREVER BARRED and PRECLUDED” from pursuing certain claims against the President, his family, and Trump-related and affiliated individuals, trusts, and businesses. This includes any matters pending (including tax returns filed before the effective date) before DOJ, the IRS, and other government agencies and departments.³ Essentially, the federal government threw in a Super-Pardon for the President, his family, and related and affiliated entities, freeing them not only from any accountability for any taxes they may have dodged, but other pending federal criminal or civil investigations like insider trading, antitrust violations, false statements, or even sexual harassment.

¹ [SDFL Settlement Signed | DocumentCloud](#)

² [Office of Public Affairs | Justice Department Announces Anti-Weaponization Fund | United States Department of Justice](#)

³ Office of the Attorney General, May 19 Settlement Memo, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1441216/dl>

Fox News reports that the Fund will be used “to pay Trump allies who were investigated by the Biden administration.”⁴ The public and members of Congress may never know who received payments from the Fund, as the Settlement Agreement only requires the Fund to submit quarterly a “confidential written report” to the Attorney General.⁵ Furthermore, once taxpayer money is deposited into the Fund, the United States has “no liability whatsoever” for the protection or safeguarding of the Fund, regardless of fraud or misuse of the funds.⁶

There are inconsistencies between the DOJ summary and the actual Settlement Agreement. For example, the DOJ summary reports that President Trump, his sons, and The Trump Organization, LLC will “receive a formal apology but no monetary payment or damages of any kind.”⁷ But there are no provisions in the Settlement Agreement barring other Trump-affiliated or related individuals, trusts, and entities from receiving payments from the Fund. So even as the President claims he will receive “no monetary payment,” the actual terms of the settlement give him a massive slush fund to dole out to his allies and affiliated or related Trump entities.

This massive slush fund will be governed by a sham commission of the President’s cronies, consisting of five members appointed by the Attorney General. One Member will be chosen “in consultation” with congressional leadership, but the President has full discretion to remove any member.⁸ Thus, President Trump essentially controls the commission. This obviously means that the commission will pay recipients as the President directs, conduct no meaningful oversight of the claims, and expend federal tax dollars without any public accountability.

Congress and Congress alone has the power of the purse under the Appropriations Clause of the Constitution. But Congress never authorized or appropriated funds for a \$1.776 billion political slush fund. This settlement is a transparent attempt to circumvent the separation of powers and use the Judgment Fund for a scam Congress never contemplated: rewarding the President’s political allies at the expense of American taxpayers.

As Members of the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on the Judiciary, we request that any and all relevant documents and communications be preserved in connection with the above-referenced settlement. We request that DOJ, the Department of the Treasury (Treasury), and the IRS retain all documents, including both hard copies and electronically-stored information (ESI), related to the settlement and establishment of the Fund. To the extent individuals use private email addresses, text messages, mobile applications (*e.g.*, Signal), or other forms of electronic communications, we request that you take steps to retain

⁴ [Trump seeks \\$1.7 billion fund to pay allies in exchange for dropping IRS lawsuit: reports | LiveNOW from FOX](#)

⁵ [SDFL Settlement Signed | DocumentCloud |](#)

⁶ [Settlement Agreement Summary](#)

⁷ [Office of Public Affairs | Justice Department Announces Anti-Weaponization Fund | United States Department of Justice](#)

⁸ [Id.](#)

those documents and communications as well. We also ask that any auto-delete protocols be disabled for employees of DOJ, Treasury, and the IRS.

Never in American history has a President pursued corruption this brazenly or on such a colossal scale. In anticipation of Secretary Bessent's upcoming June appearance before the Committee on Ways and Means, we request the following documents and written answers to the below by Wednesday, May 27, 2026:

1. Please provide a copy of the IRS memorandum regarding President Trump's lawsuit that was prepared by career civil servants in IRS Office of Chief Counsel.⁹
2. Were there any other internal memoranda or briefs, whether drafts or final, prepared in connection with the settlement negotiations? If so, please provide a copy of all such documents, including any and all IRS-prepared memoranda recommending that DOJ move to dismiss the President's lawsuit against the agency.
3. Were there any discussions about pardons for any attorneys or individuals who worked on the settlement negotiations?
4. Why are there no provisions in the Settlement Agreement that expressly prohibit or bar Members of the Commission, elected leaders, or their businesses, or Trump-affiliated businesses, from filing and receiving monetary awards from the Fund?
5. Does the President, or any member of his family, intend to include in gross income and/or deduct from federal income tax liability any legal fees or amounts directed into the Fund from federal income tax? If so, is it your opinion that such a deduction is allowed under federal income tax laws? Please identify the section of the federal tax code, the tax regulation, or the controlling legal decision upon which your conclusion rests.
6. Will recipients' fund amounts be reported to the IRS?
7. Will the quarterly reports to the Attorney General outlining who has received relief and in what form be made public?
8. Why was a key term of the agreement that the United States has "no liability whatsoever" to safeguard the Fund or protect it from fraud? What types of fraud were discussed in connection with the settlement?
9. Is there a cap on the amount a single recipient may receive from the Fund?
10. Who are the government attorneys who negotiated the settlement? Please provide their names and titles.

Thank you, in advance, for your prompt attention to this important matter.

⁹ Andrew Duhren, The I.R.S. Thought It Could Fight Trump's Lawsuit, but It Reached a Deal Anyway, *New York Times* (May 19, 2026), https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/19/admin/irs-trump-lawsuitdeal.html?unlocked_article_code=1.jlA.mlGB.aJsBJlksQdsI&smid=url-share

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard E. Neal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Committee on Ways & Means
Ranking Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie Raskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Committee on the Judiciary
Ranking Member