

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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July 20, 2026

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

Dear Director Squires:

I was pleased to read that you have abandoned your still baffling and legally dubious efforts to use the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as an agent of President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace" and apply for trademarks on its behalf. Though your reversal is a welcome and necessary course correction, fundamental questions remain about the impetus and legal justification for your decision both to apply for and then abandon these applications.

USPTO's role is to impartially examine and register trademark applications, not to serve as a straw-applicant on behalf of a shadowy global slush fund controlled by "Chairman for Life" Donald Trump. Public confidence in our nation's intellectual property system depends on ensuring that USPTO is never used to advance private or political interests. The circumstances surrounding these questionable trademark applications therefore require a complete public accounting.

In my previous communications as well as our conversation during your appearance before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet on March 25, 2026, I repeatedly requested that you explain why USPTO was acting as an extralegal custodian for President Trump's Board of Peace, stepping in as the Board's agent to apply for a trademark on the Board's behalf. To date, USPTO has failed to provide any explanation. Unfortunately, this was not the only issue on which your testimony failed to provide meaningful answers.

You testified under oath that you filed the Board of Peace applications "to address a cybersquatting issue under [your] authority under 35 U.S.C."¹ And according to Board of Peace filings, USPTO was "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

¹ Transcript, *Oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office*, Hearing before the H. Comm. on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet (Mar. 25, 2026), at 41, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-119hhrg63299/pdf/CHRG-119hhrg63299.pdf>.

deception during the period prior to the formal establishment of that organization.”² You further testified that USPTO was acting on a “custodial” basis and that “it will be transferred to the entity once it is formed.”³ 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 contradicted 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 It remains unclear whether these purported cybersquatting concerns have been resolved, whether USPTO has been advised that the Board of Peace will ever be formed, or whether USPTO has determined that the applications themselves were pursued without any legitimate legal basis.

Whatever the answers, I remain deeply troubled by this Administration’s manipulation and misuse of USPTO to conceal the true ownership of what appears to be an unregulated global slush fund bankrolled by both foreign governments and U.S. taxpayers but effectively controlled by President Trump, the Board’s self-appointed “Chairman for Life.”⁶ The Board’s financial structure raises even more serious concerns. While an account for the Board was set up through the World Bank, countries have reportedly opted to deposit funds into a private J.P. Morgan bank account, with no apparent guardrails governing how the funds may be spent and no transparency into the identity of the owner of the bank account.⁷ No federal agency should be used to lend legitimacy to this manifestly corrupt financial enterprise.

The abandonment of these applications has only deepened the concerns raised by their initial filing and have now generated a host of new questions, each of which demand urgent responses. True transparency requires more than the abandonment of these applications; it requires answers. Accordingly, I ask that you please respond to the following requests for information no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 3, 2026:

1. What specific fraud or cybersquatting threat(s) existed that required USPTO itself to become the applicant for the mark, rather than allowing the eventual organization to seek registration once it was lawfully established? And if those threats were true in March 2026, why are they no longer true today? What changed? Please provide all evidence that supports this conclusion.
2. Since USPTO has now abandoned the applications, does the agency no longer believe there is a risk of cybersquatting, misuse, false association, or deception? If so, please provide all evidence that supports this conclusion.

² U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Trademark Application Serial No. 76720938 (filed Dec. 30, 2025).

³ *Id.*, at 40.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*, at 41.

⁶ Michael 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/>.

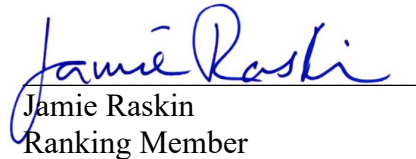
⁷ Steve Inskeep, *Funds for Trump’s Board of Peace Aren’t in World Bank Account. So Where Are They?* NPR (June 1, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/06/01/nx-s1-5837603/funds-for-trumps-board-of-peace-arent-in-world-bank-account-so-where-are-they>.

3. Were the applications abandoned because the appropriate entity was identified? If so, please identify the current owner. Alternatively, was USPTO informed that the Board of Peace would not be established? Or have you realized this entire operation was utterly lawless from the outset?
4. Who made the decision to abandon the applications? When was that decision made, and what is the stated reason or the abandonment? Please identify every USPTO official as well as every other Executive Branch official who participated in or approved that decision, as well as all communications between Director Squires or USPTO with any other government agency, including the White House, or any representative of the Board of Peace, regarding the abandonment of the trademark applications.

Additionally, you failed to respond to my questions from my letter dated May 5, 2026, as well as my letter dated March 18, 2026, none of which were addressed sufficiently during your appearance before the Subcommittee. Please respond to all outstanding questions completely and without omission.

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