

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Andrew N. Ferguson
Chair
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chair Ferguson:

We write today regarding questions about false advertising and deceptive practices by Trump Mobile, and to seek information on how the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) intends to address any potential violations of consumer protection law given the inherent conflicts of interest presented by the company's relationship to President Donald Trump.

In June 2025,¹ the Trump Organization launched Trump Mobile, announcing a "T1" smartphone that was prominently marketed as "made in the USA"² and available in August 2025 to those who placed an order,³ which required a deposit of \$100.⁴ The marketing campaign emphasized patriotic branding featuring an American flag on the device and claims that the phone would be produced domestically.⁵ Our review of publicly reported information about the advertising and sale of the phone reveals a pattern of potentially deceptive practices that warrant FTC investigation.

Trump Mobile initially advertised the T1 phone as "made in the USA" on its website.⁶ These claims were quietly removed from the website in late June 2025, days after the phone was announced.⁷ To claim that a product is "Made in USA," marketers must meet a very specific set of FTC standards, violations of which come with civil penalties.⁸ Experts have pointed out the

¹ The Trump Organization, "Trump Mobile Launches A Bold New Wireless Service for Americans," June 16, 2025, <https://www.trump.com/media/trump-mobile-launches-a-bold-new-wireless-service>.

² Trump Mobile, June 16, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250616130030/https://trumpmobile.com/>.

³ The Trump Organization, "Trump Mobile Launches A Bold New Wireless Service for Americans," June 16, 2025, <https://www.trump.com/media/trump-mobile-launches-a-bold-new-wireless-service>.

⁴ NBC, "The Trump Mobile phone is nowhere to be found after months of delay," Brian Cheung, November 24, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/trump-mobile-phone-customers-left-waiting-months-delay-rcna245035>.

⁵ Business Insider, "'Made in the USA' wording vanishes from Trump Mobile's smartphone listing," Brent D. Griffiths, June 26, 2025, <https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-smartphone-made-in-usa-claim-change-2025-6>.

⁶ The Verge, "The Trump Mobile T1 Phone looks both bad and impossible," David Pierce, June 16, 2025, <https://www.theverge.com/gadgets/687492/trump-mobile-phone-t1>; Trump Mobile, June 16, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250616130030/https://trumpmobile.com/>.

⁷ The Verge, "The Trump Phone no longer promises it's made in America," David Pierce, June 25, 2025, <https://www.theverge.com/gadgets/693080/trump-mobile-t1-phone-made-usa>.

⁸ U.S. Federal Trade Commission, "Complying with the Made in USA Standard," <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/resources/complying-made-usa-standard>.

impracticality of creating smartphones in the United States given the lack of appropriate manufacturing infrastructure.⁹ Since its grandiose announcement, Trump Mobile has replaced its language with vague phrases like “American-Proud Design,” “Proudly American,” and “brought to life right here in the USA.”¹⁰

In August 2025, Trump Mobile posted promotional images on social media showing what purported to be the T1 phone, which *The Verge* identified as renders of a Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra.¹¹ Phone case manufacturer Spigen threatened legal action as the phone in the image was in a Spigen case.¹² The product shown also bore no resemblance to the original promotional images from June, which had depicted a phone with three cameras in a triangular shape,¹³ similar to iPhone Pro models.¹⁴

Trump Mobile began accepting \$100 deposits from consumers as early as August 2025 but has failed to deliver any T1 phones to consumers, and “there are no signs that the phone has become a reality.”¹⁵ Instead, Trump Mobile has consistently pushed back its delivery date, originally promising August 2025 and subsequently postponing to November and then the beginning of December.¹⁶ As of January 2026, no phone has been delivered.¹⁷ Customer service representatives have provided contradictory and irrelevant explanations for delays, including blaming a government shutdown that had no apparent connection to the product’s manufacturing or delivery.¹⁸ While customers wait for the promised T1 phone, Trump Mobile has been selling refurbished iPhones, which are largely manufactured in China, and Samsung devices, which are manufactured by a Korean company, while claiming these products are “brought to life right here in the USA.”¹⁹ These are potentially misleading characterizations for devices that are manufactured overseas.

⁹ Financial Times, “Why Trump can’t build iPhones in the US,” April 28, 2025, <https://ig.ft.com/us-iphone/>. CNN, “Trump Mobile still claims its phone is ‘Made in the USA.’ But it pulled that language from its site,” Lisa Eadicicco and Hadas Gold, June 26, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/06/26/tech/trump-t1-phone-made-in-us-website-change>.

¹⁰ The Verge, “The Trump Phone no longer promises it’s made in America,” David Pierce, June 25, 2025, <https://www.theverge.com/gadgets/693080/trump-mobile-t1-phone-made-usa>; Trump Mobile, “Meet the T1,” <https://phone.trumpmobile.com/t1-phone/MV8y>.

¹¹ The Verge, “Trump Mobile’s fake iPhone is now a fake S25 Ultra,” Dominic Preston, August 22, 2025, <https://www.theverge.com/news/764175/trump-mobile-t1-phone-samsung-s25-ultra-spigen>.

¹² Post on X by Spigen, August 21, 2025, <https://x.com/spigen/status/1958570385542455758>.

¹³ Business Insider, “‘Made in the USA’ wording vanishes from Trump Mobile’s smartphone listing,” Brent D. Griffiths, June 26, 2025, <https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-smartphone-made-in-usa-claim-change-2025-6>.

¹⁴ Apple, “Compare iPhone models,” <https://www.apple.com/iphone/compare/?modelList=iphone-16-pro,iphone-air,iphone-17>.

¹⁵ NBC, “The Trump Mobile phone is nowhere to be found after months of delay,” Brian Cheung, November 24, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/trump-mobile-phone-customers-left-waiting-months-delay-rcna245035>.

¹⁶ Financial Times, “Trump Mobile delays plan to launch gold-coloured smartphone this year,” Michael Acton, December 31, 2025, <https://www.ft.com/content/29fc1e75-7bec-4011-acc3-603e51cf9fe2>.

¹⁷ NPR, “Trump Mobile’s golden phone remains nowhere to be found,” The Associated Press, January 7, 2026, <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/07/nx-s1-5668996/trump-mobile-golden-phone>.

¹⁸ NBC, “The Trump Mobile phone is nowhere to be found after months of delay,” Brian Cheung, November 24, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/trump-mobile-phone-customers-left-waiting-months-delay-rcna245035>.

¹⁹ *Id.*

The FTC is responsible for ensuring that companies like Trump Mobile do not make false or misleading claims when marketing products. By carrying out its statutory obligation to enforce consumer protection laws, the FTC protects families and businesses from fraud, deception, and unfair business practices.²⁰ The FTC is also responsible for making sure companies do not deceive consumers or undercut competition with false claims that products are “Made in the USA.”²¹ The FTC has previously taken action against companies for false “Made in the USA” claims,²² misleading representations about product features and origins,²³ bait-and-switch tactics involving deposits for products never delivered,²⁴ and failure to honor promised delivery dates.²⁵

We wrote to you²⁶ in August requesting your plan to meet the responsibilities of your agency and mitigate the enormous conflicts of interest posed by President Trump’s control of the regulatory mechanisms that govern his business, and we received no response from the FTC. The American people deserve to know that consumer protection laws apply equally to all businesses, regardless of political connections. The FTC’s response to any violations of consumer protection law by Trump Mobile will serve as a critical test of the FTC’s independence and commitment to its mission of “protecting the public from deceptive or unfair business practices.”²⁷ To address our concerns about this matter, we request answers to the following questions no later than February 15, 2026:

1. Would it represent a deceptive or unfair business practice if a company were to collect a \$100 deposit for delivery of a phone or any other item and fail to meet promised delivery dates?
2. Would it represent a deceptive or unfair business practice if a company were to mislead consumers by falsely claiming or implying that an item was made in the USA?
3. Did you or any individual at your agency have any discussions with President Trump, the Trump Organization, Trump Mobile, or any of its affiliates in advance of or since the June 16, 2025 announcement of Trump Mobile? If so, please describe the nature of these discussions.

²⁰ U.S. Federal Trade Commission, “Enforcement,” <https://www.ftc.gov/enforcement>.

²¹ U.S. Federal Trade Commission, “Made in USA,” <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/advertising-marketing/made-in-usa>.

²² U.S. Federal Trade Commission, “FTC Action Leads to \$2 Million Penalty Against Kubota for False Made in USA Claims,” January 26, 2024, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/01/ftc-action-leads-2-million-penalty-against-kubota-false-made-usa-claims>.

²³ U.S. Federal Trade Commission, “Federal Trade Commission Warns Companies to Comply with ‘Made in USA’ Requirements,” July 8, 2025, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/07/federal-trade-commission-warns-companies-comply-made-usa-requirements>.

²⁴ U.S. Federal Trade Commission, “\$9.3 million FTC settlement suggests Mail Order Rule compliance is always in style,” Lesley Fair, April 21, 2020, <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/blog/2020/04/93-million-ftc-settlement-suggests-mail-order-rule-compliance-always-style>.

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ Letter from Senators Elizabeth Warren, Adam Schiff, Chris Van Hollen, and Richard Blumenthal and Representatives Doris Matsui and Greg Casar to FCC Chair Brendan Carr, FTC Chair Andrew Ferguson, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, FDA Commissioner Martin Makary, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, and United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, August 5, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_from_senator_warren_members_of_congress_to_fcc_ftc_fda_doc_ustr_usdt_on_trump_mobile.pdf.

²⁷ U.S. Federal Trade Commission, “Mission,” <https://www.ftc.gov/about-ftc/mission>.

4. What controls does your agency have in place to avoid undue political influence from the White House or other administration officials on regulatory, supervisory, or enforcement matters?
5. If the President were to intervene and seek to influence your agency's decisions related to Trump Mobile, what impact would this have on agency independence—or the perception thereof—and what impact would that have on the ability of your agency to regulate and enforce laws under its purview?
6. Has the FTC opened an investigation into Trump Mobile's advertising practices and failure to deliver products to consumers who paid deposits?
7. If no investigation has been opened, please explain the legal and factual basis for declining to investigate these apparent violations.
8. Will the FTC commit to treating Trump Mobile according to the same standards and enforcement priorities applied to other companies engaged in similar conduct?
9. Has the FTC received consumer complaints regarding Trump Mobile? If so, how many, and how is the Commission responding to these complaints?

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



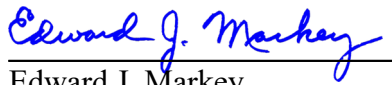
Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



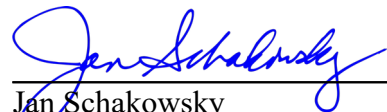
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



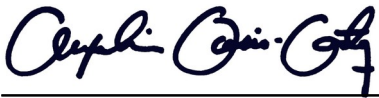
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress