Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 11, 2026

Meredith O'Rourke
Board Member
National Park Foundation
1500 K Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. O'Rourke:

We write to request information concerning your role in soliciting and coordinating over $800 million in large corporate contributions to President Trump's White House Golden Ballroom project, presidential library, Freedom 250 celebrations, Garden of Heroes, MAGA Super PAC, and other vanity projects.[1]

Senators Warren, Blumenthal, and Schiff sent a letter to you last year seeking answers about your fundraising operation, how donors are being identified and solicited, and what promises may have been or may yet be made in exchange for contributions.[2] Though you did not respond, a July 30, 2026 report by the *Wall Street Journal* provided new insights into the ways in which President Trump operates his "[u]nprecedented [f]undraising [o]peration": as detailed in the *Journal's* reporting, and summarized in this letter below, he has "personal control" of fundraising, and you facilitate an operation that raises serious questions about quid pro quo politics.[3]

The *Journal* reports that President Trump calls you "[a]lmost every night" to ask for updates about which companies and donors have contributed, which haven't and for how much to his various pet projects.[4] The article states that: "If a company encounters an issue with the federal government that comes to Trump's attention, he will want to know how much money the

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[1] Public Citizen, "Congressional Oversight Testimony: Shady Schemes Fund Trump Pet Projects," July 21, 2026, https://www.citizen.org/article/shady-schemes-fund-trump-pet-projects/; The Wall Street Journal, "'The Boss Wants This Money': Inside Trump's Unprecedented Fundraising Operation," Josh Dawsey, Dana Mattioli, Anna Linskey, et al., July 30, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-donations-company-fundraising-1e34a78f; CNN, "Top Trump fundraiser enlisted in a new nonprofit for president's sculpture garden and golf course as legal challenges abound," Sunlen Serfaty, May 4, 2026, https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/04/politics/trump-fundraiser-sculpture-garden-golf-course; Intelligencer, "Ballroom Blitz: Trump's obsessive bid for architectural immortality is barreling toward completion," Ben Terris, September 4, 2026, https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/donald-trump-white-house-ballroom-helipad-reflecting-pool-supreme-court.html.

[2] Letter from U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren, Richard Blumenthal, and Adam B. Schiff to Meredith O'Rourke, November 20, 2025, https://www.schiff.senate.gov/news/press-releases/news-sens-schiff-blumenthal-warren-demand-answers-from-trump-fundraiser-and-lobbyists-solicitiating-hundreds-of-millions-in-private-donations-for-white-house-ballroom-project/.

[3] The Wall Street Journal, "'The Boss Wants This Money': Inside Trump's Unprecedented Fundraising Operation," Josh Dawsey, Dana Mattioli, Anna Linskey, et al., July 30, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-donations-company-fundraising-1e34a78f. For example, the *Journal* reports that "[s]everal CEOs and board members said they believe there is a link between their contributions and their access to the president."

[4] *Id.*

company gave."[5] The President also reportedly directs you to make further fundraising requests even after a company's initial donation, sometimes for $5 million or $50 million.[6] You have reportedly told corporate executives that the President asked you to seek their donations and, in some instances, referred to President Trump as "the boss."[7]

The fundraising operation that President Trump reportedly directs with your assistance reeks of potential corruption and the potential for quid pro quo politics. It appears that the exact same companies that you are asking to aggressively donate to please "the boss" have federal government contracts or are seeking favorable regulatory policies from the government.[8] The *Journal* reports that corporate executives have "acknowledged that this administration is much more transactional than prior ones."[9] Indeed, there are numerous examples of a large corporation donating to one of President Trump's vanity projects, and subsequently receiving a beneficial policy or regulatory outcome:

Inaugural Fund. The Trump-Vance Inaugural committee raised over $240 million.[10] Several companies that donated to the inauguration have had federal enforcement actions against them dropped. Capital One, for example, donated $1 million to the inaugural fund, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) subsequently dismissed its lawsuit alleging that Capital One deprived customers of $2 billion in interest payments in certain savings accounts.[11] Toyota also made a $1 million donation, and the CFPB subsequently terminated its consent order against Toyota Motor Credit and reversed its requirement that Toyota refund a total of $48 million to consumers claiming they were tricked into buying add-on insurance and warranties that they did not need.[12] Pilgrim's Pride Corp., a major poultry producer, made the largest donation of $5 million to the inauguration fund, and subsequently received a speed waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), allowing pork and poultry facilities to maintain higher production-line speeds.[13]

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[5] *Id*.

[6] *Id.*

[7] *Id.*

[8] *Id.*

[9] *Id.*

[10] The Wall Street Journal, "The Mystery Money Powering Trump's Second Term," Marianne LeVine and Maggie Severns, July 15, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-fundraising-groups-financial-disclosures-8d5f5c35.

[11] Public Citizen, "Trump's Inauguration Donor Pool Includes $50 Million in Contributions from Corporations Under Investigation or Facing Federal Enforcement," April 21, 2025, https://www.citizen.org/news/trumps-corporate-inauguration-donor-pool-littered-with-federal-investigations-enforcement-lawsuits/; New York Times, "Consumer Bureau Drops Lawsuit Against Capital One," Stacy Coweley, February 27, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/27/business/cfpb-capital-one-lawsuit.html.

[12] *See* United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, "Warren Presses Vought on CFPB Cancelling Consumer Relief from Huge Companies That Donated to Trump," July 16, 2026, https://www.banking.senate.gov/newsroom/minority/warren-presses-vought-on-cfpb-cancelling-consumer-relief-from-huge-companies-that-donated-to-trump; Bloomberg Law, "CFPB Lets Toyota Escape Over $40 Million in Customer Refunds" Evan Weinberger, May 13, 2025, https://news.bloomberglaw.com/banking-law/cfpb-lets-toyota-escape-over-40-million-in-customer-refunds.

[13] The Wall Street Journal, "From Ken Griffin to Robinhood: The Donors Who Funded Trump's Inauguration Revealed," Josh Dawsey and Alex Leary, April 18, 2025, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-inauguration-funding-record-breaking-ae6a811e.

Presidential Library. The Donald J. Trump Presidential Library Foundation, Inc. received a $50 million donation from SoftBank Group, an investment firm with significant investments in the development of artificial intelligence (AI).[14] SoftBank Group made the donation in January 2026, and in March, President Trump subsequently announced a massive land lease deal for a Softbank data center on federal land, circumventing normal permitting requirements and other regulatory processes for what will be one of the largest data centers in the U.S.[15] Softbank continued to benefit from federal actions taken a few months later, when President Trump weakened an executive order that regulates the AI industry.[16]

Gold-Encrusted Ballroom. Reportedly, the White House ballroom project has received over $330 million from private donors, and "[c]ompanies or executives of firms that have had contracts with the federal government during Trump's second term accounted for about half of the total."[17] Donors to Trump's White House ballroom have received special access to the President and expanded government contracts. President Trump hosted corporate ballroom donors for an exclusive dinner in the White House's East Room.[18] And one analysis by Public Citizen revealed that as of May 2026, 14 corporations that donated to the Ballroom have aggregately received over $50 billion in expanded or new government contracts since the East Wing was demolished.[19]

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[14] Letter from U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren to SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son, June 30, 2026, https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Letter-from-Senators-Warren-Blumenthal-Representative-Stansbury-to-SoftBank-re.-Library-Donation.pdf; Response from SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son to U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, July 15, 2026, https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026.07.15-Softbank-Response-to-Letter-re-Library-Donation.pdf; U.S Senator Elizabeth Warren, "SoftBank Confirms $50 Million Donation to Trump Library Just Two Months Before Trump's Announcement of a Lease for Company's Data Center," press release, August 6, 2026, https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/softbank-confirms-50-million-donation-to-trump-library-just-two-months-before-trumps-announcement-of-a-lease-for-companys-data-center/.

[15] Response from SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son to U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, July 15, 2026, https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026.07.15-Softbank-Response-to-Letter-re-Library-Donation.pdf; U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, "SoftBank Confirms $50 Million Donation to Trump Library Just Two Months Before Trump's Announcement of a Lease for Company's Data Center," press release, August 6, 2026, https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/softbank-confirms-50-million-donation-to-trump-library-just-two-months-before-trumps-announcement-of-a-lease-for-companys-data-center/.

[16] Letter from U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren to SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son, June 30, 2026, https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Letter-from-Senators-Warren-Blumenthal-Representative-Stansbury-to-SoftBank-re.-Library-Donation.pdf.

[17] The Washington Post, "Secret documents reveal donors behind $330 million for Trump's ballroom," Jonathan O'Connell, Sarah Blaskey, and Aaron Schaffer, October 15, 2026, https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2026/10/15/secret-documents-reveal-donors-behind-330-million-trumps-ballroom/.

[18] The Wall Street Journal, "Trump Hosts Corporate Ballroom Donors at Glitzy White House Dinner," Meredith McGraw and Anne Linskey, October 15, 2025, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-ballroom-donors-white-house-dinner-ccba9448?mod=article_inline.

[19] Public Citizen, "BALLROOM BILLIONS Trump Ballroom Donors Devour Taxpayer Dollars," Jon Golinger, Eileen O'Grady, and Rick Claypool, June 4, 2026, https://www.citizen.org/article/ballroom-billions/.

MAGA PAC. In April 2026, a Reynolds American subsidiary made a $5 million contribution to MAGA Inc.[20] Two days after the donation, a top executive at Reynolds American, two Reynolds American-affiliated lobbyists, and executives from other tobacco executives met with President Trump at his golf club in Jupiter, Florida, during which they reportedly expressed their dissatisfaction with the way the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was regulating their industry and sought expedited approvals for vaping flavors.[21] During the lunch, President Trump reportedly called then–FDA commissioner Marty Makary, HHS Secretary Kennedy, and CMS Administrator Oz to express his frustrations with FDA's regulation of e-cigarettes.[22] Days later, the FDA bypassed the agency's regular rule-making process and authorized a new policy that enables tobacco manufacturers to circumvent a scientific review process and sell flavored e-cigarettes without obtaining pre-market regulatory authorization.[23] President Trump also "signed off on a plan to fire" FDA Commissioner Makary, who opposed e-cigarette authorizations that would lure youths to vape.[24]

Freedom 250. Corporations that have been listed as sponsors for various Freedom 250 celebrations have also appeared to benefit from subsequent policy announcements or actions by the President and his administration.[25] Lockheed Martin, for example, contributed more than $10 million toward the President's pet projects in 2025 and early 2026, and is listed as a sponsor of Freedom 250.[26] Months later, the Pentagon awarded Lockheed a contract worth up to $35 billion to make missiles to replace the munitions stockpile that has been depleted since the war with Iran, and weeks later, President Trump announced that Lockheed had agreed to contribute approximately $5 million toward the White House helipad.[27]

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[20] The Wall Street Journal, "Inside Trump's Takeover of the American Regulatory Machine," Josh Dawsey, Dana Mattioli, Rebecca Ballhaus, et al., June 2, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-takeover-regulators-130b57a3?mod=article_inline.

[21] *Id.*; New York Times, "With a Friend in Trump, the Tobacco Industry Secures a Lucrative Win," Christina Jewett and Kenneth P. Vogel, May 13, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/13/us/politics/trump-vapes-cigarettes-big-tobacco.html.

[22] New York Times, "With a Friend in Trump, the Tobacco Industry Secures a Lucrative Win," Christina Jewett and Kenneth P. Vogel, May 13, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/13/us/politics/trump-vapes-cigarettes-big-tobacco.html.

[23] *Id.*; The Hill, "FDA drops guardrails on vaping industry in major Trump pivot," Joseph Choi and Nathaniel Weixel, May 18, 2026, https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/5880802-flavored-vapes-fda-guidance/.

[24] The Wall Street Journal, "Inside Trump's Takeover of the American Regulatory Machine," Josh Dawsey, Dana Mattioli, Rebecca Ballhaus, et al., June 2, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-takeover-regulators-130b57a3?mod=article_inline; The Wall Street Journal, "Trump Is Planning to Fire FDA Commissioner Marty Makary," Liz Essley Whyte and Josh Dawsey, May 8, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/health/healthcare/trump-planning-to-fire-fda-commissioner-marty-makary-34c072e2?mod=article_inline; The Hill, "Marty Makary's tenure as head of FDA ends with 'difficulty'," Nathaniel Weixel and Joseph Choi, May 12, 2026, https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/5875030-marty-makarys-tenure-as-head-of-fda-ends-with-difficulty/.

[25] Letter from U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren, Alex Padilla, Adam B. Schiff, et al. to Freedom 250 CEO, September 13, 2026, https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Letter-from-Senators-Warren-and-Schiff-Freedom-250-on-Corporate-Donations-and-Potential-Pay-to-Play.pdf.

[26] *Id.*; The Wall Street Journal, "'The Boss Wants This Money': Inside Trump's Unprecedented Fundraising Operation," Josh Dawsey, Dana Mattioli, Anna Linskey, et al., July 30, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-donations-company-fundraising-1e34a78f.

[27] The Wall Street Journal, "'The Boss Wants This Money': Inside Trump's Unprecedented Fundraising Operation," Josh Dawsey, Dana Mattioli, Anna Linskey, et al., July 30, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-donations-company-fundraising-1e34a78f.

These examples just scratch the surface but clearly raise questions about the appearance of widespread corruption and potential quid pro quo transactions from President Trump or his administration.

We are considering the efficacy of current federal ethics and anti-corruptions laws, and whether they adequately apply to executive branch employees. Federal law prohibits public officials—including the President and any "person acting for or on behalf of the United States"—from "directly or indirectly, corruptly demand[ing], seek[ing], receiv[ing], [or] accept[ing] . . . anything of value personally or for any other person or entity" in return for "being influenced in the performance of any official act."[28] To the extent these fundraising efforts implicate federal bribery law, responsible officials could be subject to criminal penalties as well as civil forfeiture of any property "which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to" the violation.[29]

Though you are not a federal employee, this reporting and other publicly available information suggests that you may be a key actor in what appears to be a scheme by the President to exchange official actions for contributions to his favored projects. You are listed as the main contact on pledge agreement forms sent to prospective donors of the "Donald J. Trump Ballroom,"[30] and the Garden of American Heroes Foundation, which is raising funds for the President's sculpture garden and D.C. golf course.[31] And you are on the board of the National Park Foundation, which oversees Freedom 250.[32] Yet, you not only solicit donations, you reportedly participate in meetings between President Trump and corporate executives concerning matters that affect their companies; attend donor events at the White House; travel on Air Force One; record what President Trump promises donors; and relay that information to other White House officials.[33]

Given your extensive access to the President and the White House, your reported participation in meetings between the President and corporate executives, and our ongoing oversight and assessment of current federal ethics and anti-corruption laws, we ask that you provide answers to the following questions by November 25, 2026, and we ask that you retain all relevant documents, communications, and materials related to this request:

1. What is your formal relationship with President Trump and the White House?

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[28] 18 U.S.C. § 201(b)(2).

[29] 18 U.S.C. § 201(b); 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C).

[30] The Washington Post, "Secret documents reveal donors behind $330 million for Trump's ballroom," Jonathan O'Connell, Sarah Blaskey, and Aaron Schaffer, October 15, 2026, https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2026/10/15/secret-documents-reveal-donors-behind-330-million-trumps-ballroom/.

[31] CNN, "Top Trump fundraiser enlisted in new nonprofit for president's sculpture garden and golf course as legal challenges abound," Sunlen Serfaty, May 4, 2026, https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/04/politics/trump-fundraiser-sculpture-garden-golf-course.

[32] The Wall Street Journal, "Nine Things to Know About Trump Fundraiser Meredith O'Rourke," Annie Linskey and Josh Dawsey, July 31, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/politics/elections/nine-things-to-know-about-trump-fundraiser-meredith-orourke-1c7451c0.

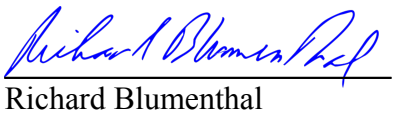
[33] The Wall Street Journal, "'The Boss Wants This Money': Inside Trump's Unprecedented Fundraising Operation," Josh Dawsey, Dana Mattioli, Anna Linskey, et al., July 30, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-donations-company-fundraising-1e34a78f.

    a. Have you ever been designated as a federal government employee of any status, including as a special government employee?
2. Who employs and compensates you for the work you perform on behalf of President Trump?
3. What role do you play in meetings between President Trump and corporate executives, lobbyists, or other individuals whom you or President Trump have solicited for contributions?
    a. How were you approached to begin working in this role?
4. Have you ever used information learned during meetings between President Trump and corporate executives, lobbyists, or other individuals, to determine who to solicit and for how much?
5. Have you ever communicated–explicitly or implicitly–to a company that a donation could affect the disposition of a regulatory matter, tariff decision, policy, or other government action affecting that company?
6. Please list all companies or individuals that you have personally contacted to solicit contributions for projects or committees associated with President Trump since January 20, 2025, including the names and affiliations of all individuals you met with, the specific nature of any conversations, including any ask for contributions, and the outcome of these requests.
7. Please list all individuals or companies that donated to Trump-associated projects or committees and subsequently obtained an in-person meeting with President Trump.
8. Please list all individuals or companies that were prohibited or otherwise rendered unable to meet with President Trump regarding issues that affect them, due to their failure to donate, or adequately donate, to Trump-associated projects or committees.
    a. Please indicate, for the individuals or companies that fail to make adequate donations to Trump-associated projects or committees, how long it typically takes for the meeting to take place after the individual's or company's request.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Permanent
Subcommittee on
Investigations