

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2025

Andy Jassy
Chief Executive Officer
Amazon
410 Terry Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Mr. Jassy:

We write regarding our concerns about the potential corruption surrounding President Trump's construction of an expensive new ballroom at the White House, the role your company may have played in funding this project, and any potential quid-pro-quo arrangement associated with these funds.

President Trump has said the \$300 million ballroom project will be financed entirely by private donors.¹ But many of the identified donors have active business before the federal government — raising serious questions about whether their donations are an effort to seek favorable treatment from the Trump Administration. Indeed, according to press reports, “[s]ome business lobbyists said that donating to the Trust for the National Mall was a good way to curry favor with the administration without giving to an explicitly political committee . . . [and] Trump told business leaders and lobbyists . . . that the project was important to him personally.”² Last month, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon acknowledged the potential concerns related to ballroom donations, stating that his bank has not donated because of the “risks we bear by doing anything that looks like . . . buying favors.”³

Some of the ballroom donors — including Amazon — could benefit from favorable treatment from the federal government related to merger reviews or enforcement actions. The federal government must make decisions regarding the enforcement of federal antitrust laws based on the merits rather than political favors. Such unbiased enforcement is necessary to promote economic growth, protect competition and the public interest, and prevent even higher costs for working families.⁴

In your case, Amazon has an interest in the federal government's handling of multiple competition-related matters. Amazon is facing a lawsuit by the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) and a bipartisan group of state attorneys general over alleged monopolization that

¹ PBS News, “Who’s paying for Trump’s \$300 million ballroom?,” Liz Landers and Joshua Barajas, October 23, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/whos-paying-for-trumps-300-million-ballroom>.

² Wall Street Journal, “How Trump Barreled Through D.C.’s Bureaucracy to Get His White House Ballroom,” Annie Linskey, Josh Dawsey, and Will Parker, October 27, 2025, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-white-house-ballroom-construction-d1616a3e?st=RM7tCN&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink.

³ CNN, “Watch Erin Burnett's full interview with JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon,” November 5, 2025, 16:04-16:10, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/11/05/business/video/jp-morgan-chase-ceo-jamie-dimon-full-intv-ebof-digvid>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, “The Role Of Competition In Promoting Dynamic Markets And Economic Growth,” Deputy Assistant Attorney General William J. Kolasky, November 12, 2002, <https://www.justice.gov/archives/atr/speech/role-competition-promoting-dynamic-markets-and-economic-growth>.

“suffocates competitors and raises costs for both sellers and shoppers.”⁵ That case is expected to go to trial in early 2027.⁶ The FTC and Amazon also recently reached a \$2.5 billion settlement resolving accusations that Amazon signed Americans up for Prime subscriptions without their consent and made it difficult to cancel the subscriptions.⁷ Pursuant to the settlement, Amazon must “stop their unlawful practices and make meaningful changes” to Prime enrollment and cancellation.⁸ In each case, Amazon has an interest in favorable action — or inaction — from the Trump Administration: Amazon would benefit from the FTC not continuing to pursue its monopolization case and from the FTC failing to enforce the terms of the recent settlement.

These interests create the potential for a quid-pro-quo exchange of a contribution to the ballroom for regulatory or other favors from the federal government. That risk appears particularly acute amid allegations of this Administration’s politicized decision-making in antitrust cases, not based on law and the interest of the public but based on political favors.⁹ If your donation was made with the intent to influence government decision-making, it could run afoul of federal bribery law.¹⁰

And while Amazon is shelling out money for President Trump’s ballroom, it is also laying off thousands of American workers to cut labor costs.¹¹ This context raises questions about your own business priorities and whether the donations are serving the best interest of your companies’ shareholders.

In addition, although President Trump has claimed the ballroom will not be built at taxpayer expense, the tax treatment of any donations raises questions about who will pay and how. By making this donation to the Trust for the National Mall, a 501(c)(3) organization, it is possible that you can take a significant tax break for these contributions. According to a fundraiser for the ballroom, the potential tax deduction is one reason donors chose to give.¹² While the exact size of Amazon’s donation is unknown, if for example Amazon donated a total of \$10 million for the ballroom, then it could stand to pay around \$2 million less in taxes, based on the corporate tax rate of 21 percent.¹³ In other words, even though President Trump has claimed this ballroom will

⁵ NPR, “U.S. sues Amazon in a monopoly case that could be existential for the retail giant,” Alina Selyukh, September 26, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2023/09/26/1191099421/amazon-ftc-lawsuit-antitrust-monopoly>.

⁶ NPR, “Did Amazon trick people into paying for Prime? Federal case goes to trial,” Alina Selyukh, Monica Nickelsburg, and Joshua McNichols, September 23, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/09/23/nx-s1-5550290/amazon-prime-membership-lawsuit-ftc-fraud-antitrust>.

⁷ Federal Trade Commission, “FTC Secures Historic \$2.5 Billion Settlement Against Amazon,” <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/09/ftc-secures-historic-25-billion-settlement-against-amazon>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Tech Policy Institute Aspen Forum, “The Rule of Law Versus the Rule of Lobbyists,” Roger P. Alford, August 18, 2025, https://files.lbr.cloud/public/2025-08/Alford%20Speech.pdf?VersionId=v0EIIxt5Oq6qWd_qrLWjFDXhQDwGhuCs.

¹⁰ 18 U.S.C. 201.

¹¹ Mint, “From Amazon to Microsoft, tech layoffs to affect over 80,000 amid AI-led restructuring,” Jocelyn Fernandes, October 28, 2025, <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/amazon-meta-microsoft-google-intel-tcs-ibm-tech-layoffs-affect-over-80000-employees-job-cuts-amid-ai-led-restructuring-11761650682635.html>.

¹² NBC News, “How a nonprofit went from cherry trees and pickleball to handling the money for Trump’s ballroom,” Peter Nicholas and Megan Lebowitz, October 31, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/nonprofit-trust-national-mall-trump-ballroom-white-house-rcna240543>.

¹³ 26 U.S.C. § 11(b).

cost taxpayers nothing,¹⁴ in reality, the ballroom could cost American families tens of millions of dollars in lost tax revenue that otherwise would have gone toward public services on which Americans rely — alongside the taxpayer costs of maintaining and operating the ballroom.¹⁵

In order to inform our legislative activity regarding anti-corruption laws, including legislation to crack down on the risk of quid-pro-quo arrangements between the President and private companies that donate to organizations benefitting the President, please provide answers to the following questions by December 16, 2025:

1. Are reports accurate that you have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the funding of President Trump's White House ballroom? If so:
 - a. Why did Amazon decide to donate to President Trump's ballroom?
 - b. Who at Amazon made the decision to donate to the ballroom? Were any board members involved in this decision?
2. Did any conversations about donating to President Trump's White House ballroom include discussion about the FTC's actions against Amazon or other federal enforcement actions? If so, please detail the date and content of the conversation and who participated.
3. How much did you contribute or pledge to contribute?
 - a. Were the contributions made as corporate or individual donations to the Trust for the National Mall?
4. Did you discuss this contribution with President Trump, his campaign fundraiser Meredith O'Rourke, or any other individual associated with his Administration or his campaign? If so, please describe the nature of and participants in these discussions.
5. Before 2025, had Amazon donated to the Trust for the National Mall in the past 10 years?
 - a. Please list any other National Park Service projects or similar public works projects that Amazon has donated to in the past 10 years.
6. Did Amazon opt to be listed as a donor to the ballroom, the Trust for the National Mall, both, or to be listed anonymously? Why?
7. Do you expect to write this contribution off as a charitable tax deduction?
 - a. If so, what is the expected value of this deduction?
8. How, if at all, does Amazon advise staff on their ethics obligations, including prohibitions on engaging in bribery through the company's business?

¹⁴ PBS News, "9 things to know about the \$250 million ballroom Trump is adding to the White House," Darlene Superville, October 21, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/9-things-to-know-about-the-250-million-ballroom-trump-is-adding-to-the-white-house>.

¹⁵ MarketWatch, "Opinion: How Trump's new White House ballroom will actually cost taxpayers up to \$110 million," Brett Arends, updated October 27, 2025, <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/trumps-new-white-house-ballroom-will-actually-cost-taxpayers-up-to-110-million-988a3d92>; Roll Call, "Taxpayers will pay plenty over the years for Trump's massive ballroom, experts say," John T. Bennett, October 27, 2025, <https://rollcall.com/2025/10/27/trump-east-wing-ballroom-project-demolition/>.

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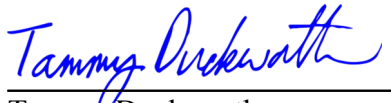
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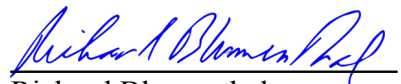
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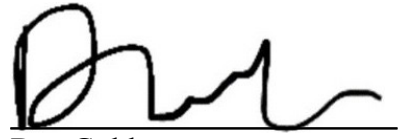
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
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André Carson
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2025

Tim Cook
Chief Executive Officer
Apple
One Apple Parkway
Cupertino, CA 95014

Dear Mr. Cook:

We write regarding our concerns about the potential corruption surrounding President Trump's construction of an expensive new ballroom at the White House, the role your company may have played in funding this project, and any potential quid-pro-quo arrangement associated with these funds.

President Trump has said the \$300 million ballroom project will be financed entirely by private donors.¹ But many of the identified donors have active business before the federal government — raising serious questions about whether their donations are an effort to seek favorable treatment from the Trump Administration. Indeed, according to press reports, “[s]ome business lobbyists said that donating to the Trust for the National Mall was a good way to curry favor with the administration without giving to an explicitly political committee . . . [and] Trump told business leaders and lobbyists . . . that the project was important to him personally.”² Last month, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon acknowledged the potential concerns related to ballroom donations, stating that his bank has not donated because of the “risks we bear by doing anything that looks like . . . buying favors.”³

Some of the ballroom donors — including Apple — could benefit from favorable treatment from the federal government related to merger reviews or enforcement actions. The federal government must make decisions regarding the enforcement of federal antitrust laws based on the merits rather than political favors. Such unbiased enforcement is necessary to promote economic growth, protect competition and the public interest, and prevent even higher costs for working families.⁴

In your case, Apple has an interest in the federal government's handling of a pending competition-related matter. Apple is facing a lawsuit by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and a bipartisan group of state attorneys general who allege that Apple monopolizes the smartphone

¹ PBS News, “Who’s paying for Trump’s \$300 million ballroom?,” Liz Landers and Joshua Barajas, October 23, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/whos-paying-for-trumps-300-million-ballroom>.

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market by charging smartphone users higher prices, extracting higher fees from developers and creators, and attempting to box out competitors.⁵ The lawsuit challenges Apple’s practice of effectively locking users into its ecosystem of products and making it difficult for users to switch.⁶ The DOJ sought to pause that case against Apple during the recent government shutdown — prompting observers to note the “politically vulnerable” nature of the case as Apple’s Chief Executive Officer, like others, tries “to forge [a] tighter relationship[] with Donald Trump.”⁷ The case has since been reinstated following the shutdown.⁸ Going forward, Apple would benefit from the DOJ seeking to settle the case or adjusting how it litigates the case.⁹

Your interest in action — or inaction — from the Trump Administration creates the risk of a quid-pro-quo exchange of a contribution to the ballroom for regulatory or other favors from the federal government. That risk appears particularly acute amid allegations of this Administration’s politicized decision-making in antitrust cases, not based on law and the interest of the public but based on political favors.¹⁰ Beyond antitrust matters, Apple has a substantial interest in other ongoing federal policy discussions, including related to tariff policy and artificial intelligence policies concerning energy use, copyright law, and federal preemption of state AI regulation. If your donation was made with the intent to influence government decision-making, it could run afoul of federal bribery law.¹¹

In addition, although President Trump has claimed the ballroom will not be built at taxpayer expense, the tax treatment of any donations raises questions about who will pay and how. By making this donation to the Trust for the National Mall, a 501(c)(3) organization, it is possible that you can take a significant tax break for these contributions. According to a fundraiser for the ballroom, the potential tax deduction is one reason donors chose to give.¹² While the size of Apple’s donation is unknown, if for example Apple donated a total of \$10 million for the ballroom, then it could stand to pay around \$2 million less in taxes, based on the corporate tax rate of 21 percent.¹³ In other words, even though President Trump has claimed this ballroom will

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, “Justice Department Sues Apple for Monopolizing Smartphone Markets,” March 21, 2024, <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-apple-monopolizing-smartphone-markets>.

⁶ NPR, “A look at the DOJ’s lawsuit against Apple for violating antitrust laws,” Adrian Ma and Wailin Wong, September 20, 2024, <https://www.npr.org/2024/09/20/nx-s1-5119948/a-look-at-the-doj-s-lawsuit-against-apple-for-violating-antitrust-laws>.

⁷ Politico, “Shutdown pauses Amazon, Apple antitrust cases,” Nate Robson and Aaron Mak, October 4, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/04/washingtons-push-to-break-up-big-tech-hits-a-shutdown-00593635>.

⁸ U.S. Department of Justice, “Motion to List Stay and Reinstate Matter to Court’s Active Docket,” United States of America, et al. v. Apple Inc., November 13, 2025, <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.njd.544402/gov.uscourts.njd.544402.337.0.pdf>.

⁹ The Capitol Forum, “HPE/Juniper: As Fight Between DOJ Leadership and Antitrust Division Broils, Tunney Act Proceeding Looms,” July 24, 2025, <https://thecapitolforum.com/hpe-juniper-as-fight-between-doj-leadership-and-antitrust-division-broils/>.

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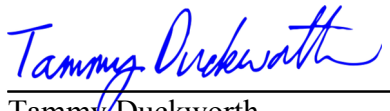
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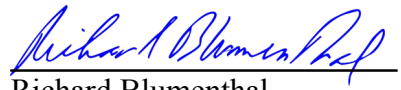
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Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2025

Brian Roberts
Chief Executive Officer
Comcast Corporation
1701 John F. Kennedy Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We write regarding our concerns about the potential corruption surrounding President Trump's construction of an expensive new ballroom at the White House, the role your company may have played in funding this project, and any potential quid-pro-quo arrangement associated with these funds.

President Trump has said the \$300 million ballroom project will be financed entirely by private donors.¹ But many of the identified donors have active business before the federal government — raising serious questions about whether their donations are an effort to seek favorable treatment from the Trump Administration. Indeed, according to press reports, “[s]ome business lobbyists said that donating to the Trust for the National Mall was a good way to curry favor with the administration without giving to an explicitly political committee . . . [and] Trump told business leaders and lobbyists . . . that the project was important to him personally.”² Last month, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon acknowledged the potential concerns related to ballroom donations, stating that his bank has not donated because of the “risks we bear by doing anything that looks like . . . buying favors.”³

Some of the ballroom donors — including Comcast — could benefit from favorable treatment from the federal government related to merger reviews or enforcement actions. The federal government must make decisions regarding the enforcement of federal antitrust laws based on the merits rather than political favors. Such unbiased enforcement is necessary to promote economic growth, protect competition and the public interest, and prevent even higher costs for working families.⁴

In your case, Comcast would benefit from the federal government's approval of a potential merger. Comcast — a major media conglomerate that owns hundreds of entertainment brands, including NBC, Telemundo, streaming service Peacock, Universal Pictures, DreamWorks,

¹ PBS News, “Who’s paying for Trump’s \$300 million ballroom?,” Liz Landers and Joshua Barajas, October 23, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/whos-paying-for-trumps-300-million-ballroom>.

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MSNBC, Bravo, USA Network, the Golf Channel, and theme parks all over the world⁵ — is reportedly considering a bid for rival media giant Warner Brothers Discovery (Warner Bros.).⁶ The deal would likely be subject to the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act's filing requirements and could be challenged by antitrust agencies under federal antitrust law.⁷ Should Comcast win a bid to acquire all or part of Warner Bros., it would effectively require the federal government's approval of the acquisition.

This interest in favorable action from the Trump Administration creates the potential for a quid-pro-quo exchange of a contribution to the ballroom for regulatory or other favors from the federal government. That risk appears particularly acute amid allegations of this Administration's politicized decision-making in antitrust cases, not based on law and the interest of the public but based on political favors.⁸ If your donation was made with the intent to influence government decision-making, it could run afoul of federal bribery law.⁹

And while Comcast is shelling out money for President Trump's ballroom, it is also laying off American workers to cut labor costs.¹⁰ This context raises questions about your own business priorities and whether the donations are serving the best interest of your companies' shareholders.

In addition, although President Trump has claimed the ballroom will not be built at taxpayer expense, the tax treatment of any donations raises questions about who will pay and how. By making this donation to the Trust for the National Mall, a 501(c)(3) organization, it is possible that you can take a significant tax break for these contributions. According to a fundraiser for the ballroom, the potential tax deduction is one reason donors chose to give.¹¹ While the size of Comcast's donation is unknown, if for example Comcast donated a total of \$10 million for the ballroom, then it could stand to pay \$2 million less in taxes, based on the corporate tax rate of 21 percent.¹² In other words, even though President Trump has claimed this ballroom will cost taxpayers nothing,¹³ in reality, the ballroom could cost American families tens of millions of

⁵ Comcast, "Content & Experiences," <https://corporate.comcast.com/company/content-experiences>.

⁶ Broadband TV News, "Paramount, Comcast and Netflix line up Warner Bros Discovery bids," Julian Clover, November 18, 2025, <https://www.broadbandtvnews.com/2025/11/18/paramount-comcast-and-netflix-line-up-warner-bros-discovery-bids/>.

⁷ Federal Trade Commission, New HSR thresholds and filing fees for 2025, February 6, 2025, <https://www.ftc.gov/enforcement/competition-matters/2025/02/new-hsr-thresholds-filing-fees-2025>.

⁸ Tech Policy Institute Aspen Forum, "The Rule of Law Versus the Rule of Lobbyists," Roger P. Alford, August 18, 2025, https://files.lbr.cloud/public/2025-08/Alford%20Speech.pdf?VersionId=v0EIIxt5Oq6qWd_qrLWjFDXhQDwGhuCs.

⁹ 18 U.S.C. 201.

¹⁰ Reuters, "Exclusive: Comcast plans to cut jobs at its biggest unit, housing broadband and pay TV, to centralize operations, source says," Abhinav Parmar and Harshita Mary Varghese, September 19, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/business/world-at-work/comcast-plans-cut-jobs-its-biggest-unit-housing-broadband-pay-tv-centralize-2025-09-19/>.

¹¹ NBC News, "How a nonprofit went from cherry trees and pickleball to handling the money for Trump's ballroom," Peter Nicholas and Megan Lebowitz, October 31, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/nonprofit-trust-national-mall-trump-ballroom-white-house-rcna240543>.

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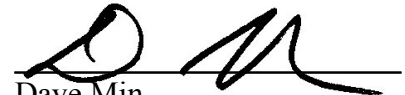
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¹⁴ MarketWatch, "Opinion: How Trump's new White House ballroom will actually cost taxpayers up to \$110 million," Brett Arends, updated October 27, 2025, <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/trumps-new-white-house-ballroom-will-actually-cost-taxpayers-up-to-110-million-988a3d92>; Roll Call, "Taxpayers will pay plenty over the years for Trump's massive ballroom, experts say," John T. Bennett, October 27, 2025, <https://rollcall.com/2025/10/27/trump-east-wing-ballroom-project-demolition/>.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



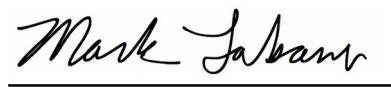
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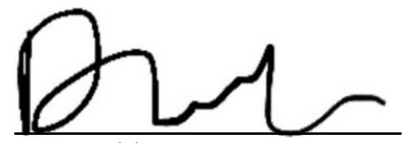
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2025

Mark Zuckerberg
Chief Executive Officer
Meta
1 Meta Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

We write regarding our concerns about the potential corruption surrounding President Trump's construction of an expensive new ballroom at the White House, the role your company may have played in funding this project, and any potential quid-pro-quo arrangement associated with these funds.

President Trump has said the \$300 million ballroom project will be financed entirely by private donors.¹ But many of the identified donors have active business before the federal government — raising serious questions about whether their donations are an effort to seek favorable treatment from the Trump Administration. Indeed, according to press reports, “[s]ome business lobbyists said that donating to the Trust for the National Mall was a good way to curry favor with the administration without giving to an explicitly political committee . . . [and] Trump told business leaders and lobbyists . . . that the project was important to him personally.”² Last month, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon acknowledged the potential concerns related to ballroom donations, stating that his bank has not donated because of the “risks we bear by doing anything that looks like . . . buying favors.”³

Some of the ballroom donors — including Meta — could benefit from favorable treatment from the federal government related to merger reviews or enforcement actions. The federal government must make decisions regarding the enforcement of federal antitrust laws based on the merits rather than political favors. Such unbiased enforcement is necessary to promote economic growth, protect competition and the public interest, and prevent even higher costs for working families.⁴

In your case, Meta has an interest in the federal government's handling of a recent competition-related ruling. Just last month, a federal district court judge issued a ruling in Meta's favor in a

¹ PBS News, “Who's paying for Trump's \$300 million ballroom?,” Liz Landers and Joshua Barajas, October 23, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/whos-paying-for-trumps-300-million-ballroom>.

² Wall Street Journal, “How Trump Barreled Through D.C.'s Bureaucracy to Get His White House Ballroom,” Annie Linskey, Josh Dawsey, and Will Parker, October 27, 2025, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-white-house-ballroom-construction-d1616a3e?st=RM7tCN&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink.

³ CNN, “Watch Erin Burnett's full interview with JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon,” November 5, 2025, 16:04-16:10, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/11/05/business/video/jp-morgan-chase-ceo-jamie-dimon-full-intv-ebof-digvid>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, “The Role Of Competition In Promoting Dynamic Markets And Economic Growth,” Deputy Assistant Attorney General William J. Kolasky, November 12, 2002, <https://www.justice.gov/archives/atr/speech/role-competition-promoting-dynamic-markets-and-economic-growth>.

lawsuit brought by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in 2020,⁵ alleging that the company illegally monopolized personal social networking through years of anticompetitive behavior, including by rolling up Instagram and WhatsApp and imposing anticompetitive conditions on potential competitors.⁶ The FTC now has the option of appealing the ruling and continuing to push to break up Meta; the Commission is currently “reviewing all [its] options.”⁷

Your interest in favorable action — or inaction — from the Trump Administration creates the potential for a quid-pro-quo exchange of a contribution to the ballroom for regulatory or other favors from the federal government. That risk appears particularly acute amid allegations of this Administration’s politicized decision-making in antitrust cases, not based on law and the interest of the public but based on political favors.⁸ Beyond antitrust matters, Meta has a substantial interest in other ongoing federal policy discussions, including related to international trade agreements and artificial intelligence policies concerning energy use, copyright law, and federal preemption of state AI regulation.⁹ If your donation was made with the intent to influence government decision-making, it could run afoul of federal bribery law.¹⁰

And while Meta is shelling out money for President Trump’s ballroom, it is also laying off hundreds of American workers to cut labor costs.¹¹ This context raises questions about your own business priorities and whether the donations are serving the best interest of your companies’ shareholders.

In addition, although President Trump has claimed the ballroom will not be built at taxpayer expense, the tax treatment of any donations raises questions about who will pay and how. By making this donation to the Trust for the National Mall, a 501(c)(3) organization, it is possible that you can take a significant tax break for these contributions. According to a fundraiser for the ballroom, the potential tax deduction is one reason donors chose to give.¹² While the size of Meta’s donation is unknown, if for example Meta donated a total of \$10 million for the ballroom, then it could stand to pay around \$2 million less in taxes, based on the corporate tax rate of 21 percent.¹³ In other words, even though President Trump has claimed this ballroom will cost

⁵ New York Times, “Meta Did Not Violate Antitrust Law, Judge Rules,” Cecilia Kang, November 18, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/18/technology/meta-antitrust-monopoly-ruling.html>.

⁶ Federal Trade Commission, “FTC Sues Facebook for Illegal Monopolization,” December 9, 2020, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2020/12/ftc-sues-facebook-illegal-monopolization>.

⁷ NPR, “Judge sides with Meta in antitrust trial, will not spin off WhatsApp and Instagram,” John Ruwitch, November 18, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/11/18/nx-s1-5495626/meta-ftc-instagram-whatsapp-antitrust-ruling>.

⁸ Tech Policy Institute Aspen Forum, “The Rule of Law Versus the Rule of Lobbyists,” Roger P. Alford, August 18, 2025, https://files.lbr.cloud/public/2025-08/Alford%20Speech.pdf?VersionId=v0EIIxt5Oq6qWd_qrLWjFDXhQDwGhuCs.

⁹ Politico, “Meta labels EU digital fines a ‘tariff’ on American firms,” Francesca Micheletti, April 23, 2025, <https://www.politico.eu/article/meta-labels-eu-digital-fines-a-tariff-on-american-firms/>.

¹⁰ 18 U.S.C. 201.

¹¹ Reuters, “Meta prepares for layoffs on Monday,” Katie Paul, February 7, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/technology/meta-prepares-layoffs-monday-internal-memo-2025-02-07/>; GeekWire, “Filing: Meta’s AI layoffs hit Washington offices in Bellevue, Seattle, Redmond,” Taylor Soper, October 27, 2025, <https://www.geekwire.com/2025/filing-metas-ai-layoffs-hit-washington-offices-in-bellevue-seattle-redmond/>.

¹² NBC News, “How a nonprofit went from cherry trees and pickleball to handling the money for Trump’s ballroom,” Peter Nicholas and Megan Lebowitz, October 31, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/nonprofit-trust-national-mall-trump-ballroom-white-house-rcna240543>.

¹³ 26 U.S.C. § 11(b).

taxpayers nothing,¹⁴ in reality, the ballroom could cost American families tens of millions of dollars in lost tax revenue that otherwise would have gone toward public services on which Americans rely — alongside the taxpayer costs of maintaining and operating the ballroom.¹⁵

In order to inform our legislative activity regarding anti-corruption laws, including legislation to crack down on the risk of quid-pro-quo arrangements between the President and private companies that donate to organizations benefitting the President, please provide answers to the following questions by December 16, 2025:

1. Are reports accurate that you have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the funding of President Trump's White House ballroom? If so:
 - a. Why did Meta decide to donate to President Trump's ballroom?
 - b. Who at Meta made the decision to donate to the ballroom? Were any board members involved in this decision?
2. Did any conversations about donating to President Trump's White House ballroom include discussion about the FTC's actions against Meta or other federal enforcement actions? If so, please detail the date and content of the conversation and who participated.
3. How much did you contribute or pledge to contribute?
 - a. Were the contributions made as corporate or individual donations to the Trust for the National Mall?
4. Did you discuss this contribution with President Trump, his campaign fundraiser Meredith O'Rourke, or any other individual associated with his Administration or his campaign? If so, please describe the nature of and participants in these discussions.
5. Before 2025, had Meta donated to the Trust for the National Mall in the past 10 years?
 - a. Please list any other National Park Service projects or similar public works projects that Meta has donated to in the past 10 years.
6. Did Meta opt to be listed as a donor to the ballroom, the Trust for the National Mall, both, or to be listed anonymously? Why?
7. Do you expect to write this contribution off as a charitable tax deduction?
 - a. If so, what is the expected value of this deduction?
8. How, if at all, does Meta advise staff on their ethics obligations, including prohibitions on engaging in bribery through the company's business?

¹⁴ PBS News, "9 things to know about the \$250 million ballroom Trump is adding to the White House," Darlene Superville, October 21, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/9-things-to-know-about-the-250-million-ballroom-trump-is-adding-to-the-white-house>.

¹⁵ MarketWatch, "Opinion: How Trump's new White House ballroom will actually cost taxpayers up to \$110 million," Brett Arends, updated October 27, 2025, <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/trumps-new-white-house-ballroom-will-actually-cost-taxpayers-up-to-110-million-988a3d92>; Roll Call, "Taxpayers will pay plenty over the years for Trump's massive ballroom, experts say," John T. Bennett, October 27, 2025, <https://rollcall.com/2025/10/27/trump-east-wing-ballroom-project-demolition/>.

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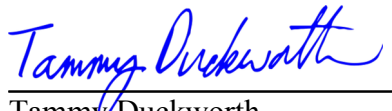
Sincerely,



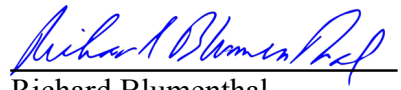
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United States Senator



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Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
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Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Eleanor Holmes Norton
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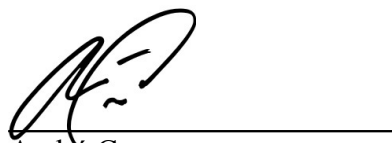
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Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2025

Satya Nadella
Chief Executive Officer
Microsoft
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052

Dear Mr. Nadella:

We write regarding our concerns about the potential corruption surrounding President Trump's construction of an expensive new ballroom at the White House, the role your company may have played in funding this project, and any potential quid-pro-quo arrangement associated with these funds.

President Trump has said the \$300 million ballroom project will be financed entirely by private donors.¹ But many of the identified donors have active business before the federal government — raising serious questions about whether their donations are an effort to seek favorable treatment from the Trump Administration. Indeed, according to press reports, “[s]ome business lobbyists said that donating to the Trust for the National Mall was a good way to curry favor with the administration without giving to an explicitly political committee . . . [and] Trump told business leaders and lobbyists . . . that the project was important to him personally.”² Last month, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon acknowledged the potential concerns related to ballroom donations, stating that his bank has not donated because of the “risks we bear by doing anything that looks like . . . buying favors.”³

Some of the ballroom donors — including Microsoft — could benefit from favorable treatment from the federal government related to merger reviews or enforcement actions. The federal government must make decisions regarding the enforcement of federal antitrust laws based on the merits rather than political favors. Such unbiased enforcement is necessary to promote economic growth, protect competition and the public interest, and prevent even higher costs for working families.⁴

In your case, Microsoft has an interest in the federal government's handling of a pending competition-related matter. Microsoft is under investigation by the Federal Trade Commission

¹ PBS News, “Who’s paying for Trump’s \$300 million ballroom?,” Liz Landers and Joshua Barajas, October 23, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/whos-paying-for-trumps-300-million-ballroom>.

² Wall Street Journal, “How Trump Barreled Through D.C.’s Bureaucracy to Get His White House Ballroom,” Annie Linskey, Josh Dawsey, and Will Parker, October 27, 2025, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-white-house-ballroom-construction-d1616a3e?st=RM7tCN&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink.

³ CNN, “Watch Erin Burnett's full interview with JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon,” November 5, 2025, 16:04-16:10, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/11/05/business/video/jp-morgan-chase-ceo-jamie-dimon-full-intv-ebof-digvid>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, “The Role Of Competition In Promoting Dynamic Markets And Economic Growth,” Deputy Assistant Attorney General William J. Kolasky, November 12, 2002, <https://www.justice.gov/archives/atr/speech/role-competition-promoting-dynamic-markets-and-economic-growth>.

(FTC) over its bundling of its software products with cybersecurity and cloud computing services.⁵ Your interest in action — or inaction — from the Trump Administration creates the risk of a quid-pro-quo exchange of a contribution to the ballroom for regulatory or other favors from the federal government. That risk appears particularly acute amid allegations of this Administration’s politicized decision-making in antitrust cases, not based on law and the interest of the public but based on political favors.⁶ Beyond antitrust matters, Microsoft has a substantial interest in federal contracts and earned over \$2 billion in revenue from federal contracts in recent years.⁷ If your donation was made with the intent to influence government decision-making, it could run afoul of federal bribery law.⁸

And while Microsoft is shelling out money for President Trump’s ballroom, it is also laying off thousands of American workers to cut labor costs.⁹ This context raises questions about your own business priorities and whether the donations are serving the best interest of your companies’ shareholders.

In addition, although President Trump has claimed the ballroom will not be built at taxpayer expense, the tax treatment of any donations raises questions about who will pay and how. By making this donation to the Trust for the National Mall, a 501(c)(3) organization, it is possible that you can take a significant tax break for these contributions. According to a fundraiser for the ballroom, the potential tax deduction is one reason donors chose to give.¹⁰ While the size of Microsoft’s donation is unknown, if for example Microsoft donated a total of \$10 million for the ballroom, then it could stand to pay \$2 million less in taxes, based on the corporate tax rate of 21 percent.¹¹ In other words, even though President Trump has claimed this ballroom will cost taxpayers nothing,¹² in reality, the ballroom could cost American families tens of millions of dollars in lost tax revenue that otherwise would have gone toward public services on which Americans rely — alongside the taxpayer costs of maintaining and operating the ballroom.¹³

⁵ ProPublica, “Microsoft Bundling Practices Focus of Federal Antitrust Probe,” Renee Dudley, December 24, 2024, <https://www.propublica.org/article/ftc-investigating-microsoft-antitrust-cloud-computing>.

⁶ Tech Policy Institute Aspen Forum, “The Rule of Law Versus the Rule of Lobbyists,” Roger P. Alford, August 18, 2025, https://files.lbr.cloud/public/2025-08/Alford%20Speech.pdf?VersionId=v0EIIxt5Oq6qWd_qrLWjFDXhQDwGhuCs.

⁷ Public Citizen, “Banquet of Greed: Trump Ballroom Donors Feast on Federal Funds and Favors,” Robert Weissman, Michael Tanglis, Eileen O’Grady, et al., November 3, 2025, <https://www.citizen.org/wp-content/uploads/Banquet-of-Greed-Final.pdf>.

⁸ 18 U.S.C. 201.

⁹ Business Insider, “They got laid off from the Microsoft country club and dumped into a brutal job market,” Jacob Zinkula, November 7, 2025, <https://www.businessinsider.com/microsoft-layoffs-workers-say-job-security-dead-2025-11>.

¹⁰ NBC News, “How a nonprofit went from cherry trees and pickleball to handling the money for Trump’s ballroom,” Peter Nicholas and Megan Lebowitz, October 31, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/nonprofit-trust-national-mall-trump-ballroom-white-house-rcna240543>

¹¹ 26 U.S.C. § 11(b).

¹² PBS News, “9 things to know about the \$250 million ballroom Trump is adding to the White House,” Darlene Superville, October 21, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/9-things-to-know-about-the-250-million-ballroom-trump-is-adding-to-the-white-house>.

¹³ MarketWatch, “Opinion: How Trump’s new White House ballroom will actually cost taxpayers up to \$110 million,” Brett Arends, updated October 27, 2025, https://www.marketwatch.com/story/trumps-new-white-house-ballroom-will-actually-cost-taxpayers-up-to-110-million-988a3d92?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=AWetsqfdlRK9pf48vyOpQsizi9ulwiwj4AOKDwLVe9sWr_3n9xOXvx2vQV5fSmh4nfA%3D&gaa_ts=690b8ac3&gaa_sig=KqekOc3LAAAdT2jSl05KXaw3TIY6NeLEtQvD3PsOKnMAG5SLfXJOEdG9jN

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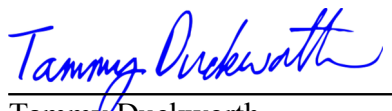
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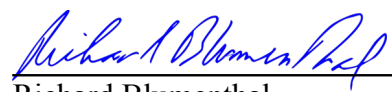
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Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

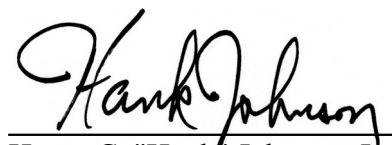

Dave Min
Member of Congress

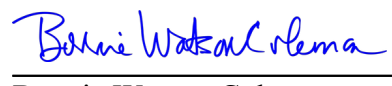

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Andre Carson
Member of Congress


Dan Goldman
Member of Congress


Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2025

Jensen Huang
Chief Executive Officer
Nvidia
2788 San Tomas Expressway
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Dear Mr. Huang:

We write regarding our concerns about the potential corruption surrounding President Trump's construction of an expensive new ballroom at the White House, the role your company may have played in funding this project, and any potential quid-pro-quo arrangement associated with these funds.

President Trump has said the \$300 million ballroom project will be financed entirely by private donors.¹ But many of the identified donors have active business before the federal government — raising serious questions about whether their donations are an effort to seek favorable treatment from the Trump Administration. Indeed, according to press reports, “[s]ome business lobbyists said that donating to the Trust for the National Mall was a good way to curry favor with the administration without giving to an explicitly political committee . . . [and] Trump told business leaders and lobbyists . . . that the project was important to him personally.”² Last month, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon acknowledged the potential concerns related to ballroom donations, stating that his bank has not donated because of the “risks we bear by doing anything that looks like . . . buying favors.”³

Some of the ballroom donors — including Nvidia — could benefit from favorable treatment from the federal government related to merger reviews or enforcement actions. The federal government must make decisions regarding the enforcement of federal antitrust laws based on the merits rather than political favors. Such unbiased enforcement is necessary to promote economic growth, protect competition and the public interest, and prevent even higher costs for working families.⁴

¹ PBS News, “Who’s paying for Trump’s \$300 million ballroom?,” Liz Landers and Joshua Barajas, October 23, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/whos-paying-for-trumps-300-million-ballroom>.

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³ CNN Business, “Watch Erin Burnett's full interview with JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon,” November 5, 2025, 16:04-16:10, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/11/05/business/video/jp-morgan-chase-ceo-jamie-dimon-full-intv-ebof-digvid>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, “The Role Of Competition In Promoting Dynamic Markets And Economic Growth,” Deputy Assistant Attorney General William J. Kolasky, November 12, 2002, <https://www.justice.gov/archives/atr/speech/role-competition-promoting-dynamic-markets-and-economic-growth>.

In your case, Nvidia has an interest in the federal government’s handling of a pending competition-related matter. Nvidia is reportedly being investigated by the Department of Justice (DOJ) over allegedly charging higher prices to customers who purchase AI chips from competitors.⁵ Nvidia’s \$100 billion partnership with OpenAI could also raise antitrust concerns.⁶ In each case, Nvidia has an interest in favorable action — or inaction — from the Trump Administration. These interests create the potential for a quid-pro-quo exchange of a contribution to the ballroom for regulatory or other favors from the federal government. That risk appears particularly acute amid allegations of this Administration’s politicized decision-making in antitrust cases, not based on law and the interest of the public but based on political favors.⁷ If your donation was made with the intent to influence government decision-making, it could run afoul of federal bribery law.⁸

In addition, although President Trump has claimed the ballroom will not be built at taxpayer expense, the tax treatment of any donations raises questions about who will pay and how. By making this donation to the Trust for the National Mall, a 501(c)(3) organization, it is possible that you can take a significant tax break for these contributions. According to a fundraiser for the ballroom, the potential tax deduction is one reason donors chose to give.⁹ While the size of Nvidia’s donation is unknown, if for example Nvidia donated a total of \$10 million for the ballroom, then it could stand to pay around \$2 million less in taxes, based on the corporate tax rate of 21 percent.¹⁰ In other words, even though President Trump has claimed this ballroom will cost taxpayers nothing,¹¹ in reality, the ballroom could cost American families tens of millions of dollars in lost tax revenue that otherwise would have gone toward public services on which Americans rely — alongside the taxpayer costs of maintaining and operating the ballroom.¹²

⁵ Bloomberg, “Nvidia Gets DOJ Subpoena in Escalating Antitrust Probe,” Ian King and Leah Nylen, September 3, 2024, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-09-03/nvidia-gets-doj-subpoena-in-escalating-antitrust-investigation>; New York Times, “What to Know About Trump’s Antitrust Efforts Against Tech Giants,” David McCabe, April 13, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/13/technology/trump-tech-antitrust-cases.html>; Los Angeles Times, “Nvidia gets Justice Department subpoena in escalating antitrust inquiry,” Ian King and Leah Nylen, September 4, 2024, <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2024-09-04/nvidia-gets-doj-subpoena-in-escalating-antitrust-probe>.

⁶ Reuters, “Nvidia’s \$100 billion OpenAI play raises big antitrust issues,” Jody Godoy, September 23, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/nvidias-100-billion-openai-play-raises-big-antitrust-issues-2025-09-23/>.

⁷ Tech Policy Institute Aspen Forum, “The Rule of Law Versus the Rule of Lobbyists,” Roger P. Alford, August 18, 2025, https://files.lbr.cloud/public/2025-08/Alford%20Speech.pdf?VersionId=v0EIIxt5Oq6qWd_qrLWjFDXhQDwGhuCs.

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¹⁰ 26 U.S.C. § 11(b).

¹¹ PBS News, “9 things to know about the \$250 million ballroom Trump is adding to the White House,” Darlene Superville, October 21, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/9-things-to-know-about-the-250-million-ballroom-trump-is-adding-to-the-white-house>.

¹² MarketWatch, “Opinion: How Trump’s new White House ballroom will actually cost taxpayers up to \$110 million,” Brett Arends, updated October 27, 2025, https://www.marketwatch.com/story/trumps-new-white-house-ballroom-will-actually-cost-taxpayers-up-to-110-million-988a3d92?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=AWetsqfdlRK9pf48vyOpQsizi9uIwiwj4AOKDwLVe9sWr_3n9xOXvx2vQV5fSmh4nfA%3D&gaa_ts=690b8ac3&gaa_sig=KqekOc3LAAAdT2jSlo5KXaw3TIY6NeLEtQvD3PsOKnMAG5SLfXJQEdG9jNYUm5mEUCYIkzc3hdsITAI-d6x7m7g%3D%3D; Roll Call, “Taxpayers will pay plenty over the years for Trump’s massive ballroom, experts say,” John T. Bennett, October 27, 2025, <https://rollcall.com/2025/10/27/trump-east->

In order to inform our legislative activity regarding anti-corruption laws, including legislation to crack down on the risk of quid-pro-quo arrangements between the President and private companies that donate to organizations benefitting the President, please provide answers to the following questions by December 16, 2025:

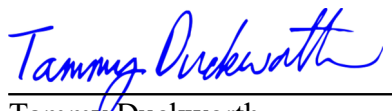
1. Are reports accurate that you have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the funding of President Trump's White House ballroom? If so:
 - a. Why did Nvidia decide to donate to President Trump's ballroom?
 - b. Who at Nvidia made the decision to donate to the ballroom? Were any board members involved in this decision?
2. Did any conversations about donating to President Trump's White House ballroom include discussion about the DOJ's investigation into Nvidia or other federal enforcement actions? If so, please detail the date and content of the conversation and who participated.
3. How much did you contribute or pledge to contribute?
 - a. Were the contributions made as corporate or individual donations to the Trust for the National Mall?
4. Did you discuss this contribution with President Trump, his campaign fundraiser Meredith O'Rourke, or any other individual associated with his Administration or his campaign? If so, please describe the nature of and participants in these discussions.
5. Before 2025, had Nvidia donated to the Trust for the National Mall in the past 10 years?
 - a. Please list any other National Park Service projects or similar public works projects that Nvidia has donated to in the past 10 years.
6. Did Nvidia opt to be listed as a donor to the ballroom, the Trust for the National Mall, both, or to be listed anonymously? Why?
7. Do you expect to write this contribution off as a charitable tax deduction?
 - a. If so, what is the expected value of this deduction?
8. How, if at all, does Nvidia advise staff on their ethics obligations, including prohibitions on engaging in bribery through the company's business?

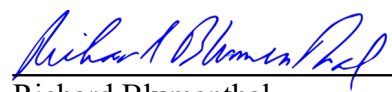
Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

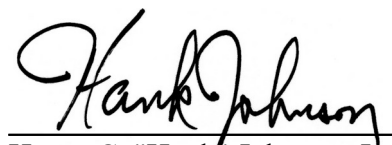

Dave Min
Member of Congress


Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress


Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress


Andre Carson
Member of Congress


Dan Goldman
Member of Congress


Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2025

Jim Vena
Chief Executive Officer
Union Pacific Railroad
1400 Douglas Steet
Omaha, NE 68179

Dear Mr. Vena:

We write regarding our concerns about the potential corruption surrounding President Trump's construction of an expensive new ballroom at the White House, the role your company may have played in funding this project, and any potential quid-pro-quo arrangement associated with these funds.

President Trump has said the \$300 million ballroom project will be financed entirely by private donors.¹ But many of the identified donors have active business before the federal government — raising serious questions about whether their donations are an effort to seek favorable treatment from the Trump Administration. Indeed, according to press reports, “[s]ome business lobbyists said that donating to the Trust for the National Mall was a good way to curry favor with the administration without giving to an explicitly political committee . . . [and] Trump told business leaders and lobbyists . . . that the project was important to him personally.”² Last month, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon acknowledged the potential concerns related to ballroom donations, stating that his bank has not donated because of the “risks we bear by doing anything that looks like . . . buying favors.”³

Some of the ballroom donors — including Union Pacific — could benefit from favorable treatment from the federal government related to merger reviews or enforcement actions. The federal government must make decisions regarding the enforcement of federal antitrust laws based on the merits rather than political favors. Such unbiased enforcement is necessary to promote economic growth, protect competition and the public interest, and prevent even higher costs for working families.⁴

In your case, Union Pacific would benefit from federal approval of a pending merger. Your company, the dominant freight rail carrier in the Western United States, is preparing to merge

¹ PBS News, “Who’s paying for Trump’s \$300 million ballroom?,” Liz Landers and Joshua Barajas, October 23, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/whos-paying-for-trumps-300-million-ballroom>.

² Wall Street Journal, “How Trump Barreled Through D.C.’s Bureaucracy to Get His White House Ballroom,” Annie Linskey, Josh Dawsey, and Will Parker, October 27, 2025, https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-white-house-ballroom-construction-d1616a3e?st=RM7tCN&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink.

³ CNN, “Watch Erin Burnett’s full interview with JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon,” November 5, 2025, 16:04-16:10, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/11/05/business/video/jp-morgan-chase-ceo-jamie-dimon-full-intv-ebof-digvid>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, “The Role Of Competition In Promoting Dynamic Markets And Economic Growth,” Deputy Assistant Attorney General William J. Kolasky, November 12, 2002, <https://www.justice.gov/archives/atr/speech/role-competition-promoting-dynamic-markets-and-economic-growth>.

with Norfolk Southern, a leading freight rail carrier in the Eastern United States, in a deal valued at \$85 billion.⁵ The deal would combine two of the four dominant freight rail companies into a giant that would dwarf competitors and “would control approximately 40% of the U.S. freight rail traffic,” giving it “unrivaled leverage” over businesses that use freight rail to ship their products.⁶ The deal has so far drawn opposition from nine Republican state attorneys general,⁷ labor unions,⁸ bipartisan Senators,⁹ and a large coalition of freight customers,¹⁰ who warn it will hurt farmers, manufacturers, and energy producers.¹¹ Union Pacific will need approval from the federal Surface Transportation Board to complete the merger.¹²

These interests create the potential for a quid-pro-quo exchange of a contribution to the ballroom for regulatory or other favors from the federal government. That risk appears particularly acute amid allegations of this Administration’s politicized decision-making in antitrust cases, not based on law and the interest of the public but based on political favors.¹³ If your donation was made with the intent to influence government decision-making, it could run afoul of federal bribery law.¹⁴

In addition, although President Trump has claimed the ballroom will not be built at taxpayer expense, the tax treatment of any donations raises questions about who will pay and how. By making this donation to the Trust for the National Mall, a 501(c)(3) organization, it is possible that you can take a significant tax break for these contributions. According to a fundraiser for the ballroom, the potential tax deduction is one reason donors chose to give.¹⁵ While the size of Union Pacific’s donation is unknown, if for example Union Pacific donated a total of \$10 million

⁵ Reuters, “Republican state AGs raise concerns about Union Pacific deal for Norfolk Southern,” David Shepardson, November 14, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/republican-state-ags-raise-concerns-union-pacific-deal-norfolk-southern-2025-11-14/>.

⁶ CPKC, “Rail consolidation in the United States,” <https://www.cpkcr.com/en/media/Rail-Consolidation-Updates>.

⁷ Reuters, “Republican state AGs raise concerns about Union Pacific deal for Norfolk Southern,” David Shepardson, November 14, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/republican-state-ags-raise-concerns-union-pacific-deal-norfolk-southern-2025-11-14/>.

⁸ Transportation Workers Union of America, “TWU Strongly Opposes Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern Merger,” July 29, 2025, <https://www.twu.org/twu-strongly-opposes-union-pacific-norfolk-southern-merger/>.

⁹ Letter to the Surface Transportation Board from Senators Hoeven, Klobuchar, Sheehy, et al., October 30, 2025, <https://www.hoeven.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/10.30.25%20-%20Hoeven-Klobuchar%20Letter%20to%20STB%20re%20UP%20NS%20Merger.pdf>; Letter to the Surface Transportation Board from Senators Baldwin and Marshall, July 29, 2025, https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/marshall_baldwin_letter_on_union_pacific_norfolk_southern_deal.pdf.

¹⁰ Rail Customer Coalition, “About Us,” <https://www.freightrailreform.com/about/>; Rail Customer Coalition, “Trouble on the Tracks: Risky Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern Merger Threatens Rail Competition and Service,” <https://www.freightrailreform.com/trouble-on-the-tracks/>.

¹¹ American Chemistry Council, “ACC Rail Merger Policy: Competition and Service Reliability,” <https://www.americanchemistry.com/better-policy-regulation/transportation-infrastructure/rail/acc-rail-merger-policy-competition-and-service-reliability>; Freight Waves, “Red state AGs: Rail merger could threaten national security,” Stuart Chirls, November 14, 2025, <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/red-state-ags-rail-merger-could-threaten-national-security>.

¹² Surface Transportation Board, “Major Railroad Mergers – Resources,” <https://www.stb.gov/resources/major-railroad-mergers/>.

¹³ Tech Policy Institute Aspen Forum, “The Rule of Law Versus the Rule of Lobbyists,” Roger P. Alford, August 18, 2025, https://files.lbr.cloud/public/2025-08/Alford%20Speech.pdf?VersionId=v0EIIxt5Oq6qWd_qrLWjFDXhQDwGhuCs.

¹⁴ 18 U.S.C. 201.

for the ballroom, then it could stand to pay around \$2 million less in taxes, based on the corporate tax rate of 21 percent.¹⁶ In other words, even though President Trump has claimed this ballroom will cost taxpayers nothing,¹⁷ in reality, the ballroom could cost American families tens of millions of dollars in lost tax revenue that otherwise would have gone toward public services on which Americans rely — alongside the taxpayer costs of maintaining and operating the ballroom.¹⁸

In order to inform our legislative activity regarding anti-corruption laws, including legislation to crack down on the risk of quid-pro-quo arrangements between the President and private companies that donate to organizations benefitting the President, please provide answers to the following questions by December 16, 2025:

1. Are reports accurate that you have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the funding of President Trump’s White House ballroom? If so:
 - a. Why did Union Pacific decide to donate to President Trump’s ballroom?
 - b. Who at Union Pacific made the decision to donate to the ballroom? Were any board members involved in this decision?
2. Did any conversations about donating to President Trump’s White House ballroom include discussion about the Trump Administration’s review of Union Pacific’s proposed merger? If so, please detail the date and content of the conversation and who participated.
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5. Before 2025, had Union Pacific donated to the Trust for the National Mall in the past 10 years?

¹⁵ NBC News, “How a nonprofit went from cherry trees and pickleball to handling the money for Trump’s ballroom,” Peter Nicholas and Megan Lebowitz, October 31, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/nonprofit-trust-national-mall-trump-ballroom-white-house-rcna240543>.

¹⁶ 26 U.S.C. § 11(b).

¹⁷ PBS News, “9 things to know about the \$250 million ballroom Trump is adding to the White House,” Darlene Superville, October 21, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/9-things-to-know-about-the-250-million-ballroom-trump-is-adding-to-the-white-house>.

¹⁸ MarketWatch, “Opinion: How Trump’s new White House ballroom will actually cost taxpayers up to \$110 million,” Brett Arends, updated October 27, 2025, https://www.marketwatch.com/story/trumps-new-white-house-ballroom-will-actually-cost-taxpayers-up-to-110-million-988a3d92?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=AWetsqfdlRK9pf48vyOpQsizj9uIwiwj4AOKDwLVe9sWr_3n9xOXvx2vQV5fSmh4nfA%3D&gaa_ts=690b8ac3&gaa_sig=KqekOc3LAAAdT2jSlo5KXaw3TIY6NeLEtQvD3PsOKnMAG5SLfXJQEdG9jNYUm5mEUCYIkzc3hdsITAI-d6x7m7g%3D%3D; Roll Call, “Taxpayers will pay plenty over the years for Trump’s massive ballroom, experts say,” John T. Bennett, October 27, 2025, <https://rollcall.com/2025/10/27/trump-east-wing-ballroom-project-demolition/>.

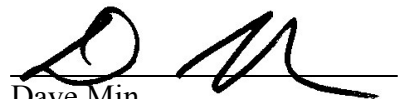
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Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

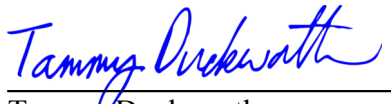
Sincerely,



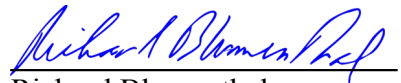
Elizabeth Warren
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Tammy Duckworth
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Richard Blumenthal
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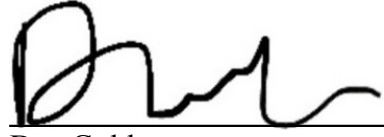
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress