

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 7, 2020

Mr. Eric Trump
Executive Vice President
The Trump Organization
725 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Trump:

The Emoluments Clauses of the United States Constitution are intended to promote the complete and undivided loyalty of the President to the American people.¹ We are writing to request documents relating to requests by the Trump Organization—in which President Trump retains an ownership interest—for financial benefits from domestic and foreign government entities, including the United Kingdom, in the wake of the coronavirus crisis.

As you know, Congress recently passed legislation prohibiting certain U.S. taxpayer funds from being used to benefit companies in which President Trump holds a stake, recognizing the obvious conflicts of interest inherent in such payments.² On April 22, 2020, press reports indicated that after Congress took this step, the Trump Organization turned to foreign governments to seek financial assistance for the President's companies.³ One day later, on April 23, 2020, you appeared to confirm these reports, stating that the President's companies are now seeking financial assistance directly from the British government.⁴ The Trump Organization's pursuit of funds from foreign governments follows a similar request by President Trump's companies to the U.S. government.⁵

¹ The Foreign Emoluments Clause—Article I, Section 9, clause 8 of the United States Constitution—bans the President and other high government officials from accepting any payment or benefit from a foreign state without the consent of Congress, while the Domestic Emoluments Clause—Article II, Section 1, Clause 7—bans the President from receiving any payments from federal or state governments in excess of his or her salary.

² CARES Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136 § 4019.

³ *Trump Organization, Written Out of U.S. Bailout, Taps Europe Aid*, Bloomberg (Apr. 22, 2020) (online at www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-22/trump-organization-written-out-of-u-s-bailout-taps-europe-aid).

⁴ *Trump Organization Seeks Coronavirus Bailouts for President's Gold Resorts in Ireland and Scotland*, USA Today (Apr. 23, 2020) (online at www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2020/04/23/trump-organization-coronavirus-covid-19-bailout-golf-resorts-ireland-scotland/3010972001/).

⁵ *Trump (The Company) Asks Trump (The Administration) for Hotel Relief*, New York Times (Apr. 21, 2020) (online at www.nytimes.com/2020/04/21/business/trump-hotel-coronavirus.html).

Apart from the grave Emoluments Clause problems your actions cause in the United States, officials in the United Kingdom have raised serious concerns about using their own taxpayer funds to bail out President Trump's companies. For example, Martin Ford, a councilor in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, where one of the President's two Scottish luxury properties is located, stated, "The huge tab for this will be borne throughout the whole population through higher taxes." He added, "If what he says about his personal wealth is true, Trump doesn't need the money, and I don't see why U.K. taxpayers of the future should be helping him out."⁶

For these reasons, we request that you produce the following documents by May 21, 2020, for the time period covering January 1, 2020, to the present:

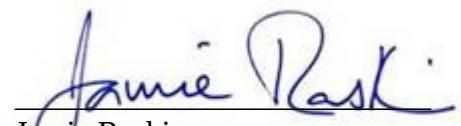
1. All documents and communications relating to the Trump Organization's application for any loans or other funds from any domestic or foreign government entity, including the British government, referring or relating to the coronavirus crisis;
2. All documents and communications relating to the Foreign or Domestic Emoluments Clauses of the U.S. Constitution and the Trump Organization's application for or receipt of funds from any domestic or foreign government entity, referring or relating to the coronavirus crisis; and
3. All documents and communications between the Trump Organization and any U.S. federal employees or officials, referring or relating to the coronavirus crisis.

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to the Committee's request.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of "the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President." If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,


Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman


Jamie Raskin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties

⁶ *Trump Organization, Written Out of U.S. Bailout, Taps Europe Aid*, Bloomberg (Apr. 22, 2020) (online at www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-22/trump-organization-written-out-of-u-s-bailout-taps-europe-aid).

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Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

The Honorable Chip Roy, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Responding to Committee Document Requests

1. In complying with this request, produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. Produce all documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy, or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party.
2. Requested documents, and all documents reasonably related to the requested documents, should not be destroyed, altered, removed, transferred, or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committees.
3. In the event that any entity, organization, or individual denoted in this request is or has been known by any name other than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
4. The Committees' preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., CD, memory stick, thumb drive, or secure file transfer) in lieu of paper productions.
5. Documents produced in electronic format should be organized, identified, and indexed electronically.
6. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
 - a. The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
 - b. Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.
 - c. If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.
 - d. All electronic documents produced to the Committees should include the following fields of metadata specific to each document, and no modifications should be made to the original metadata:

BEGDOC, ENDDOC, TEXT, BEGATTACH, ENDATTACH, PAGECOUNT, CUSTODIAN, RECORDTYPE, DATE, TIME, SENTDATE, SENTTIME, BEGINDATE, BEGINTIME, ENDDATE, ENDTIME, AUTHOR, FROM, CC, TO, BCC, SUBJECT, TITLE, FILENAME, FILEEXT, FILESIZE, DATECREATED, TIMECREATED, DATELASTMOD, TIMELASTMOD,

INTMSGID, INTMSGHEADER, NATIVELINK, INTFILPATH, EXCEPTION,
BEGATTACH.

7. Documents produced to the Committees should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, zip file, box, or folder is produced, each should contain an index describing its contents.
8. Documents produced in response to this request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers, or identifying markers with which they were associated when the request was served.
9. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph(s) or request(s) in the Committees' letter to which the documents respond.
10. The fact that any other person or entity also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
11. The pendency of or potential for litigation shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
12. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(d), the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and any statutory exemptions to FOIA shall not be a basis for withholding any information.
13. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(9), the Privacy Act shall not be a basis for withholding information.
14. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full by the specified return date, compliance shall be made to the extent possible by that date. An explanation of why full compliance is not possible shall be provided along with any partial production.
15. In the event that a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document: (a) every privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author, addressee, and any other recipient(s); (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other; and (f) the basis for the privilege(s) asserted.
16. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (by date, author, subject, and recipients), and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
17. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, produce all documents that would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.

18. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data, or information not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date shall be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery.
19. All documents shall be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
20. Two sets of each production shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff. When documents are produced to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2105 of the Rayburn House Office Building. When documents are produced to the Committee on Financial Services, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2129 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 4340 of the O'Neill House Office Building. When documents are produced to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, production sets shall be delivered to Majority and Minority Staff in Room HVC-304 of the Capital Visitor Center.
21. Upon completion of the production, submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control that reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee.

Definitions

1. The term "document" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, data, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, communications, electronic mail (email), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other inter-office or intra-office communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape, or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a

part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.

2. The term “communication” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, mail, releases, electronic message including email (desktop or mobile device), text message, instant message, MMS or SMS message, message application, or otherwise.
3. The terms “and” and “or” shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information that might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neutral genders.
4. The term “including” shall be construed broadly to mean “including, but not limited to.”
5. The term “Company” means the named legal entity as well as any units, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, limited liability companies, trusts, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities over which the named legal entity exercises control or in which the named entity has any ownership whatsoever.
6. The term “identify,” when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual’s complete name and title; (b) the individual’s business or personal address and phone number; and (c) any and all known aliases.
7. The term “related to” or “referring or relating to,” with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with, or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.
8. The term “employee” means any past or present agent, borrowed employee, casual employee, consultant, contractor, de facto employee, detailee, fellow, independent contractor, intern, joint adventurer, loaned employee, officer, part-time employee, permanent employee, provisional employee, special government employee, subcontractor, or any other type of service provider.
9. The term “individual” means all natural persons and all persons or entities acting on their behalf.