

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Chairman  
Financial Services  
and General Government Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Graves  
Ranking Member  
Financial Services  
and General Government Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger and Chairman Quigley and Ranking Member Graves,

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations bills, we respectfully request that you include language prohibiting the use of federal funds at businesses owned in whole or in part by President Donald J. Trump in all twelve of the appropriations bills.

Based on reports, it appears that the President's businesses have been accepting taxpayer money paid by the federal government. We believe that President Trump's refusal to divest from his businesses continues to raise serious questions about his compliance with the Constitution's Domestic Emolument Clause, which protects against presidential corruption.

Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution provides that 'The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States...' To the extent that taxpayer funds are being used to pay for rooms and other facilities and services at his properties, such payments may run afoul of this critical anti-corruption provision in the Constitution.

For example, President Trump has caused U.S. taxpayer funds to be spent at his U.S. businesses to his personal financial benefit. He has repeatedly chosen to spend time at his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida and his Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, New Jersey since becoming president,<sup>1</sup> as well as at other Trump-branded properties including the Trump National

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.townandcountrymag.com/style/home-decor/a7144/mar-a-lago-history/>

Golf Club in Jupiter, Florida and the Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia.<sup>2</sup> Taxpayer money has been spent not only on hotel rooms,<sup>3</sup> but a reported \$73,000 on golf cart rentals.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, the President owns approximately 77 percent of the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C., which holds a lease from the General Services Administration.<sup>5</sup> In 2017, former Governor Paul LePage stayed at Trump's D.C. hotel when he had official business to conduct, including discussions with the president.<sup>6</sup> On one of those trips, President Donald J. Trump and former Governor LePage appeared together at a news conference at which Trump signed an executive order to review orders of the prior administration that established national monuments within the National Park Service. President Barack Obama had established a park and national monument in Maine over LePage's objections in 2016.<sup>7</sup>

This is not what the founders intended. In fact, this is what the Constitution specifically prohibits. By prohibiting the use of federal funds at businesses owned in whole or in part by President Donald J. Trump we will be sending a strong message to the American people that we will not allow this, or any president to use this high office for personal enrichment.

Again, we appreciate your leadership on this issue and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Katie Hill  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/how-much-time-trump-spending-trump-properties-n753366>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/taxpayers-billed-1092-for-an-officials-two-night-stay-at-trumps-mar-a-lago-club/2017/09/15/e3e5dfdc-97c6-11e7-82e4-f1076f6d6152\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.ec5c1c93449b](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/taxpayers-billed-1092-for-an-officials-two-night-stay-at-trumps-mar-a-lago-club/2017/09/15/e3e5dfdc-97c6-11e7-82e4-f1076f6d6152_story.html?utm_term=.ec5c1c93449b)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/secret-service-protecting-trump-family-asking-congress-to-raise-salary-overtime-cap/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.washingtonian.com/2017/01/11/we-still-dont-know-if-trump-has-to-divest-from-his-dc-hotel/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://bangordailynews.com/2018/12/05/politics/lepage-likely-to-be-subpoenaed-in-lawsuit-seeking-records-from-trump-organization/>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid





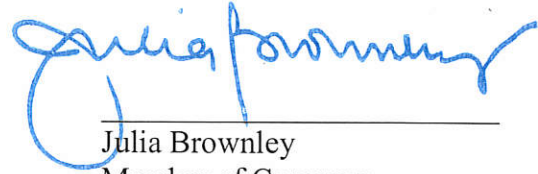
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



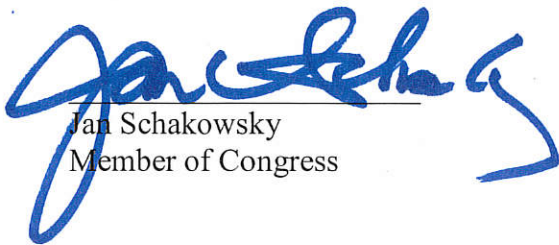
Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



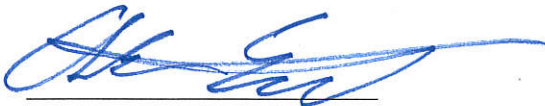
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



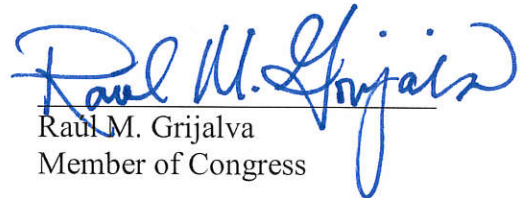
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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




Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



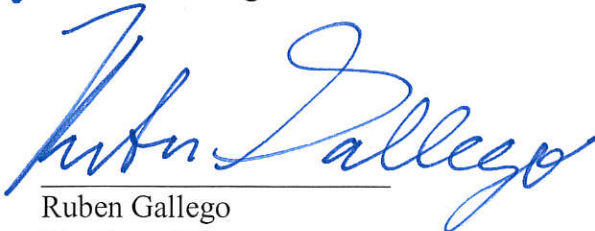
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



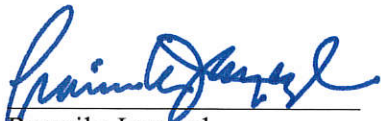
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



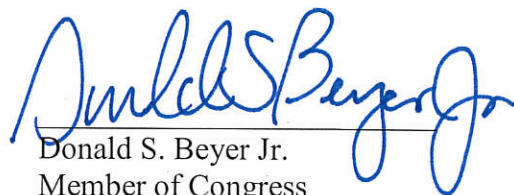
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress




Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress