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United States Senate

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Mr. Donald McGahn
White House Counsel
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. McGahn:

I write to inquire about the national security and foreign policy implications of President Trump's potential conflicts of interest.

As you know, The Trump Organization ("the Organization") has investments, contracts, and properties across the world. According to the White Paper that the President's attorneys published on January 11, 2017, the Organization's businesses "have been or will be conveyed to a Trust." The President reportedly remains the sole beneficiary of the Trust.

I am concerned that both the President's and the Organization's foreign investments, agreements, contracts, and debt or loans may create substantial conflicts with U.S. foreign policy and national security interests. Because the President reportedly remains the sole beneficiary of the Trust, he likely has significant interest in the Organization's investments and properties—both domestic and foreign. Without further transparency, the American people do not know whether President Trump's business, financial, and personal interests in foreign countries will influence Administration decisions on national security, foreign, and trade policy. To date, the Administration has failed to address these concerns.

For example, last July, then-candidate Donald Trump tweeted "For the record, I have ZERO investments in Russia."¹ More recently, in January 2017, President Trump tweeted, "Russia has never tried to use leverage over me. I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH RUSSIA - NO DEALS, NO LOANS, NO NOTHING!"²

Despite the President's assertions, the Administration has not produced a single piece of evidence to the public to support his claims. President Trump remains troublingly quiet amid concerns that Russia is fomenting instability in Eastern Ukraine, working to undermine elections in Europe, and enabling the Assad regime to target civilians in Syria. I am concerned his financial interests continue to shape his stance on Russia. Most recently, President Trump equated Russian President Putin's human rights record and his treatment of the press and

¹ Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter Post, July 26, 2016, 3:50 p.m., https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/758071952498159616?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

² Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter Post, January 11th, 2017, 4:31 a.m., https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/819159806489591809?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

political opponents with the United States and praised President Putin as “very smart!”³ He has also remained silent as Russia has attempted to influence internal U.S. affairs.

I urge you to provide documentation and records that support the President’s assertion that neither he nor the Organization have any investments, business connections, loans or debt owed to Russia or any Russian individual, entity, business or organization.

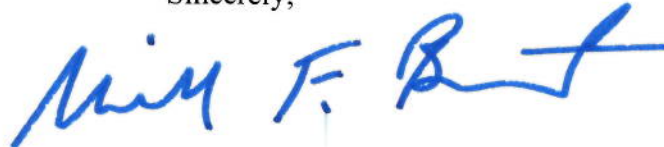
As I have said before, the President’s ethics arrangement is wholly inadequate and may undermine the effective functioning of our democratic institutions. The American people need concrete assurances that President Trump’s “undivided commitment is to the good of the country.”⁴ Transparency regarding the nature of the President’s foreign entanglements is the only way the public can know whether he is living up to this commitment.

In addition to documentation and records regarding Russia, I would also appreciate if you could provide a detailed account of the Organization’s foreign investments, agreements, contracts, and any foreign debt or loans. It would also be helpful if you could explain and provide documents regarding any steps that the Administration has taken to mitigate or eliminate potential foreign conflicts of interest.

I look forward to your prompt response. It is imperative that you and the Administration make clear that the interests of our country and of the American people are the sole driving force in the White House.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator

³ Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter Post, December, 20th, 2016, 11:41 a.m., <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/814919370711461890>

⁴ Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, White Paper, <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3280261/MLB-White-Paper-1-10-Pm.pdf>, (January 11, 2017)