

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write today to request information regarding any financial ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and your family business interests.

The United States maintains a deep and complex relationship with Saudi Arabia going back many decades. Saudi Arabia is one of the world's few remaining absolute monarchies, and the source of immense petro-wealth. The wealth acquired from oil and gas is frequently used abroad in pursuit of its political interests.

According to public reports, the Trump Organization for decades has maintained business relationships with the government of Saudi Arabia and members of the Saudi royal family. For instance, in 1995, a Saudi prince led a group of investors that acquired the Plaza Hotel in a deal to pay off Trump Organization debts on the property for \$325 million.¹ Similarly, public reports indicate that members of the Saudi royal family have acquired real estate at Trump properties for decades. Known real estate sales include the sale of the 45th floor of the Trump World Tower for \$12 million,² and the purchase of a triplex Trump Place apartment by a Saudi Prince who eventually sold it this year for \$36 million.³ Reports also revealed that a Trump-owned 281 foot yacht was sold to a Saudi prince in 1991 for \$20 million.⁴

Your recent statements, and public reports of increased spending by the Saudi government at Trump properties, raise significant concerns about financial conflicts of interest. At a rally in

¹ David Stout and Kenneth Gilpin, "Trump Is Selling Plaza Hotel To Saudi and Asian Investors." *The New York Times*, April 12, 1995, <https://www.nytimes.com/1995/04/12/business/trump-is-selling-plaza-hotel-to-saudi-and-asian-investors.html>.

² Bernard Condon, Stephen Braun and Tami Abdollah, "'I love the Saudis': Trump business ties to kingdom run deep." *AP*, October 12, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/i-love-the-saudis-trump-business-ties-to-kingdom-run-deep/2018/10/12/bcc0eda4-ce78-11e8-ad0a-0e01efba3cc1_story.html.

³ David A. Farenthold and Jonathan O'Connell, "'I like them very much': Trump has long-standing business ties with Saudis, who have boosted his hotels since he took office." *The Washington Post*, October 11, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/i-like-them-very-much-trump-has-long-standing-business-ties-with-saudis-who-have-boosted-his-hotels-since-he-took-office/2018/10/11/0870df24-cd67-11e8-a360-85875bac0b1f_story.html.

⁴ *Id.*

Mobile, Alabama on August 21, 2015, you were recorded on video stating: “Saudi Arabia. I get along with all of them. They buy apartments from me. They spend \$40 million. \$50 million.”⁵ Additionally, the Saudi government has spent substantial sums at three Trump branded hotels in the last two years, since you were elected President. The Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C., the Trump International Hotel in Manhattan and the Trump International Hotel and Tower in Chicago have all reported a substantial increase in spending from Saudi visitors since you were elected President,⁶ which raises separate questions about your compliance with the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the Constitution.

The international community is deeply concerned about the Saudi government’s reported involvement in the extrajudicial disappearance or killing of Washington Post journalist and U.S. resident Jamal Khashoggi, a known critic of the Saudi government. Mr. Khashoggi’s whereabouts have been unknown since he entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2nd. His fiancée maintains she waited outside for him and he never came out. The Turkish government has reportedly provided U.S. officials with significant evidence indicating that Khashoggi was likely killed inside the Saudi consulate.⁷

Accordingly, a bipartisan group of twenty-two Senators recently called for an investigation and a Global Magnitsky Act determination relating to the circumstances surrounding Mr. Khashoggi’s disappearance and possible murder. It is imperative that this sanctions determination, and U.S. policy towards Saudi Arabia generally, are not influenced by any conflicts of interest that may exist because of your or your family’s deep financial ties to Saudi Arabia.

As President, you have refused to withdraw your financial interest in the Trump Organization.⁸ In order for Congress to better understand any potential conflicts of interest that may exist between you, the Trump Organization, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, please provide responses to the following questions and requests for documents no later than November 17, 2018:

1. All documents pertaining to investments, payments, or other financial transfers from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including members of the Saudi royal family and other Saudi nationals, to Trump Organization properties within the last ten years. This includes the process by which payments from entities or individuals from Saudi Arabia are identified, and a detailed accounting of all income to the Trump Organization from Saudi interests in the last ten years.
2. Have you or any officials of the Trump Organization discussed potential investments or business deals involving Saudi Arabia or Saudi investments since June 16, 2015? If yes,

⁵ Id.

⁶ Id.

⁷ Shane Harris, Souad Mekhennet, John Hudson and Anne Gearan, “Turks tell U.S. officials they have audio and video recordings that support conclusion Khashoggi was killed.” *The Washington Post*, Oct. 11, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/turks-tell-us-officials-they-have-audio-and-video-recordings-that-support-conclusion-khashoggi-was-killed/2018/10/11/119a119e-cd88-11e8-920f-d52e1ae4570_story.html.

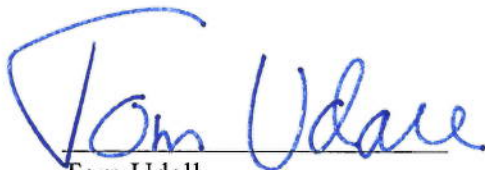
⁸ Chase Peterson-Withorn, “Trump Refuses To Divest Assets, Passes Control to Sons.” *Forbes*, Jan. 11, 2017, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/chasewithorn/2017/01/11/donald-trump-will-hand-over-business/#469c9f4460d7>.

please identify the dates, locations and participants of those discussions, including the topics of those discussions in as much detail as possible.

3. Has the government of Saudi Arabia or any Saudi national provided you with any gifts or anything else of value since you were elected President? If so, have you consulted with ethics officials regarding these gifts, including the White House counsel's office or the Office of Government Ethics? Please identify the gifts or items of value and their approximate value.
4. Will you commit to suspending any ongoing business relationships between any entities you or your family have a financial interest in and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia until the Magnitsky investigation is complete?
5. If a Magnitsky investigation finds that senior officials of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ordered or were involved with the murder or abduction of Mr. Khashoggi, will you terminate any business relationships between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and entities in which you have a financial interest, including Trump Organization entities?

Thank you for your prompt attention to these important requests. We are sending an identical request to Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump at the Trump Organization.

Sincerely,



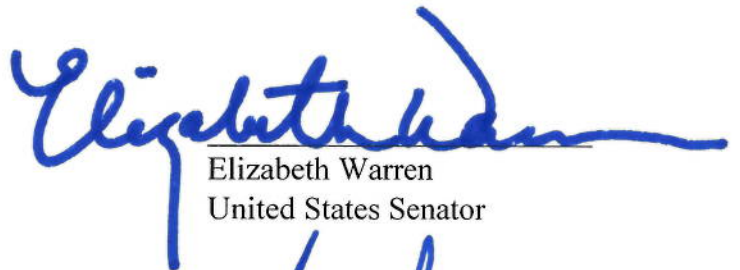
Tom Udall
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Richard Durbin
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Cory Booker
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey

Edward Markey
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator