

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

February 11, 2026

Mr. Duane Townsend  
Acting Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Townsend:

We write to request an investigation into credible reports that significant financial conflicts of interest informed President Trump's decision to approve the export of 500,000 advanced AI chips to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in May 2025.<sup>1</sup>

Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan (Sheikh Tahnoon), the UAE National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Emirates wealth fund, and controlling shareholder of the AI company G42, bought a 49 percent stake in President Trump's crypto company, World Liberty Financial (WLF), just months before securing U.S. approval for the sale of 500,000 AI chips.<sup>2</sup> 100,000 of those AI chips were greenlit for direct sale to Sheikh Tahnoon's company, G42.<sup>3</sup> This decision overrode previous concerns from the U.S. intelligence community regarding G42's ties to the U.S. sanctioned People's Republic of China (PRC) company Huawei and to the PRC's military and intelligence entities.<sup>4</sup> These facts raise serious questions about whether the President's personal financial interests, and those of Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, compromised U.S. export controls and national security decision-making.

The U.S. intelligence community has raised concerns about G42's interest in accessing advanced U.S. AI chips, citing the risk that such technologies could be diverted for PRC military or intelligence use. Despite these security concerns, the Trump Administration decided to sell chips directly to G42 only after Sheikh Tahnoon entered into very high-value business deals with President Trump.<sup>5</sup>

These arrangements include a \$500 million investment by Sheikh Tahnoon's firm Aryam for a 49 percent stake in World Liberty Financial.<sup>6</sup> Of the initial \$250 million installment,

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<sup>1</sup> Reuters. (2025, October 9). U.S. approves some Nvidia UAE sales, Bloomberg News reports. *Reuters*.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/us-approves-some-nvidia-uae-sales-bloomberg-news-reports-2025-10-09/>

<sup>2</sup> Kessler, Sam *et al.* (2026, January 31). 'Spy Sheikh' Bought Secret Stake in Trump Company. *Wall Street Journal*.

<https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/spy-sheikh-secret-stake-trump-crypto-tahnoon-ea4d97e8?msocid=281ff575d17b68de37eee04ed0cc6982>

<sup>3</sup> Al Sayegh, Hadeel and Freifeld, Karen. (2025, May 14). US close to letting UAE import millions of Nvidia's AI chips, sources say. *Reuters*.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-close-letting-uae-import-millions-nvidias-ai-chips-sources-say-2025-05-14/>

<sup>4</sup> Alper, Alexandra and Bing, Christopher. (2024, July 11). US lawmakers raise worries about China in Microsoft deal with Emirati AI firm. *Reuters*.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/republican-lawmakers-deeply-concerned-over-microsoft-g42-ai-deal-letter-says-2024-07-11/>

<sup>5</sup> Downs, Garrett. (2026, February 1). 'Spy Sheikh' Takes Stake in Trump-Linked Crypto Firm. *CNBC*.

<https://www.cnb.com/2026/02/01/spy-sheikh-stake-trump-crypto.html>

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

approximately \$187 million flowed to Trump family entities, one of which is 70 percent personally owned by President Trump and \$31 million went to entities affiliated with Special Envoy Witkoff.<sup>7</sup> The deal also granted G42's Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel to take two seats on WLF's five-member board alongside President Trump's son Eric Trump and Steve Witkoff's son, Zach Witkoff.<sup>8</sup>

Further compounding these concerns, Sheikh Tahnoon's investment firm MGX invested \$2 billion in the crypto exchange Binance using digital assets from WLF shortly before the AI Chip approval.<sup>9</sup> MGX is co-owned by G42, and its board includes the same G42 executives serving on WLF's board.<sup>10</sup> These overlapping financial, corporate, and national security relationships underscore the need to determine whether U.S. export control decisions were improperly influenced by personal enrichment.

We request you conduct an immediate review on whether the Bureau of Information Security (BIS) and Commerce Department officials followed appropriate safeguards and whether outside financial interests influenced the granting of these export licenses. Specifically, we request your review include:

- 1) Whether the decision to start approving export licenses for advanced AI chips was influenced by Sheikh Tahnoon's stake in World Liberty Financial;
- 2) Whether the decision to start approving export licenses was a decision made at the White House or a policy recommendation from the Department of Commerce;
- 3) Whether the BIS conducted impact assessments prior to the decision to sell advanced AI chips to the UAE to ensure that doing so would not undermine the national security and foreign policy of the United States and other statutory mandates and requirements, and shared said assessments with the interagency and appropriate congressional committees;
- 4) Whether relevant working-level experts and career staff in the Department of Commerce or Office of the Director of National Intelligence were consulted prior to the decision to sell chips to the UAE and how their assessments and feedback were incorporated in the decision making;
- 5) Whether any officials or executive branch agencies made any formal objections or raised concerns about selling advanced chips to the UAE and the cause of those concerns;
- 6) An audit of whether the BIS Undersecretary outlined a clear and consistent policy for the approval of licenses to the UAE based on rigorous threat and risk assessments, prior to issuing any licenses;

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<sup>7</sup> Id.

<sup>8</sup> Id.

<sup>9</sup> Lipton, Eric et al. (2025, September 15). Anatomy of Two Giant Deals: The U.A.E. Got Chips. The Trump Team Got Crypto Riches. New York Times. [In Giant Deals, U.A.E. Got Chips, and Trump Team Got Crypto Riches - The New York Times](#)

<sup>10</sup> MGX. *Leadership* | MGX. MGX AE. (accessed Feb. 5, 2026). <https://www.mgx.ae/en/leadership>

7) An examination of who initiated, reviewed, and approved the Bureau of Industry and Security licenses and any related interagency clearances;

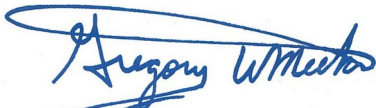
8) Whether BIS officials have followed regular protocol, as established in statute as well as based on past practice, in their review of license applications for advanced chip sales to the UAE, including sharing the application with the Departments of State, Defense, and Energy in a timely manner, and having career staff, not political appointees, make ultimate decisions on whether individual licenses are approved or denied.

We look forward to your quick action on this matter and would appreciate an update on your review.

Sincerely,



Sydney Kamlager Dove  
Member of Congress



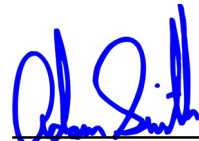
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



James A. Himes  
Ranking Member  
House Permanent Select  
Committee on Intelligence



Robert Garcia  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform



Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services  
Committee



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



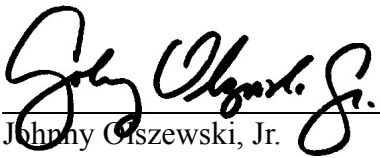
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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



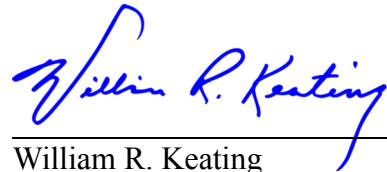
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George Latimer  
Member of Congress



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Johnny Oszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



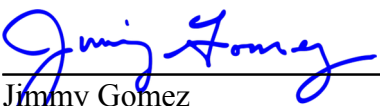
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress