

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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May 15, 2025

Mr. David Warrington  
Counsel to the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Warrington:

I write regarding alarming reports that President Trump intends to accept a luxury airplane as a gift from the Qatari ruling family—a transaction that, according to one leading ethics expert, “would probably be the largest gift given to a U.S. president by a foreign government in modern history.”<sup>1</sup> The gift of this aircraft—reportedly worth \$400 million—to the President by a foreign state, absent congressional approval, would clearly violate the Constitution’s Foreign Emoluments Clause.<sup>2</sup> In addition to the profoundly irresponsible, reckless and dangerous national security concerns that this arrangement raises, this proposed deal, if executed, would be patently illegal and corrupt and would advertise to our allies and adversaries that the President of the United States simply cannot resist an opportunity to enrich himself and has placed the White House up for sale.<sup>3</sup> The Trump Administration must conduct U.S. foreign policy in the interest of the American people—and not the interests of foreign governments that enrich the President. I urge you to immediately decline this corrupt, foreign gift.

Our nation’s forefathers were deeply wary from their experience under a tyrannical king and restricted foreign emoluments in the Constitution. The Framers did this to ensure that the President prioritizes the interests of the United States above any personal financial interests and is not tempted to jeopardize U.S. national or economic security for his own personal

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<sup>1</sup> *Trump Administration In Talks With Qatar Over Plane Gift*, Washington Post (May 12, 2025) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/05/11/trump-air-force-one-qatar/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/05/11/trump-air-force-one-qatar/)); *Trump Is Poised to Accept a Luxury 747 From Qatar for Use as Air Force One*, New York Times (May 11, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2025/05/11/us/politics/trump-qatar-jet-gift-air-force-one.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/11/us/politics/trump-qatar-jet-gift-air-force-one.html)).

<sup>2</sup> *Trump Administration in Talks to Accept New Air Force One as Gift From Qatar*, Wall Street Journal (May 11, 2025) (online at [www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-administration-in-talks-to-accept-new-air-force-one-as-gift-from-qatar-14b29357](https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-administration-in-talks-to-accept-new-air-force-one-as-gift-from-qatar-14b29357)).

<sup>3</sup> *See Trump Administration Poised to Accept 'Palace in the Sky' as a Gift for Trump from Qatar: Sources*, ABC News (May 11, 2025) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-administration-poised-accept-palace-gift-trump/story?id=121680511>).

enrichment.<sup>4</sup> This prohibition is meant to prevent corruption enabled by payments from foreign sources. President Trump has repeatedly attempted to skirt this requirement—reportedly stating that only someone “stupid” would turn down the \$400 million gift from the Qatari ruling family—and has found ways to unlawfully amass immense profits from corrupt foreign governments despite his obligation to the American people to refrain from such profiteering while in office.<sup>5</sup> The President’s now extensive and highly lucrative business ties to Qatar underscores the urgent need to enforce this fundamental safeguard.<sup>6</sup>

For example, a January 2024 staff report from Oversight Committee Democrats, covering just a fraction of the payments reaped by President Trump’s businesses during his first term, exposed that his businesses took in over \$7.8 million in payments from foreign governments—including the government of Qatar—while he occupied the White House. As the report documented, the Qatari government purchased additional condominiums in the Trump World Tower during President Trump’s first term, increasing its monthly payments to the Trump Organization. Additionally, individuals associated with the Qatari royal family frequently stayed in the Trump Hotel in Washington, D.C., and these stays frequently coincided with foreign policy developments, concerning which the Qatari government sought American assistance.<sup>7</sup> More recently, the Trump family business announced a deal to build a luxury golf resort in Qatar, reportedly in partnership with a company owned by the Qatari government—notably, a potential violation of the Trump Organization’s January 10, 2025, ethics pledge.<sup>8</sup>

Qatar’s proposed donation of a \$400 million “palace in the sky” to President Trump only heightens concerns about the influence of foreign governments over the President’s actions, and has been widely recognized by the public for what it is: the Qatari government’s clear attempt to benefit and curry the favor of Donald Trump.<sup>9</sup> Yet, astonishingly, in a departure from both the

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Const., art. I, § 9, cl. 8.; see also *The Emoluments Clauses of the U.S. Constitution*, Congressional Research Service (Jan. 27, 2021) (online at [www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF11086](http://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF11086)).

<sup>5</sup> *Trump, Pressed on Qatari Jet, Says Only “Stupid” People Reject Gifts*, New York Times (May 12, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2025/05/12/us/politics/trump-qatar-plane-jet.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/12/us/politics/trump-qatar-plane-jet.html)).

<sup>6</sup> *Trump’s New Air Force One? Why Qatar’s Luxury Jet Gift Draws Constitutional Scrutiny*, Time (May 12, 2025) (online at <https://time.com/7284972/trump-qatar-jet-saudi-arabia/>); *Inside Trump’s Trip to Qatar: Long-Time Home to Hamas—And America’s Ultimate “Frenemy.”* New York Post (May 11, 2025) (online at <https://nypost.com/2025/05/11/world-news/inside-trumps-trip-to-qatar-long-time-home-to-hamas-and-americas-ultimate-frenemy/>).

<sup>7</sup> Minority Staff, Committee on Oversight and Accountability, *White House for Sale: How Princes, Prime Ministers, and Premiers Paid Off President Trump*, 118th Cong. (Jan. 4, 2024) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/2024-01-04.COA%20DEMS%20-%20Mazars%20Report.pdf>).

<sup>8</sup> *Trump Company Strikes Qatari Golf Resort Deal in a Sign It’s Not Holding Back From Foreign Business*, Associated Press (Apr. 30, 2025) (online at <https://apnews.com/article/trump-qatar-deal-conflicts-saudi-arabia-emoluments-7379bee2e307d39bd43b534a05ae3207>); *Read the Trump Family’s Ethics Agreement*, New York Times (Jan. 10, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/01/10/us/january-10-2025-quinn-emanuel-white-paper-president-trumps-second-term-in-office.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/01/10/us/january-10-2025-quinn-emanuel-white-paper-president-trumps-second-term-in-office.html)).

<sup>9</sup> *Trump Administration Poised to Accept ‘Palace in the Sky’ as a Gift from Trump from Qatar: Sources*, ABC News (May 11, 2025) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-administration-poised-accept-palace-sky-gift-trump/story?id=121680511>); *‘It’s a Bribe’: MAGA Media Stars Bash Trump’s Reported Qatar Plane Gift*,

law and common sense, you reportedly have authorized the President to accept such a gift, concluding that this exorbitant gift is constitutional, lawful, and risks no improper influence over the President.<sup>10</sup> Leading constitutional and ethics experts have disagreed vociferously with your conclusion, noting that “this move is shocking” and a “pretty textbook case of a violation of the Emoluments Clause” that “makes clear that U.S. foreign policy under Donald Trump is up for sale.”<sup>11</sup> Even prominent Republicans, including congressional leaders and fringe right-wing influencer and presidential advisor Laura Loomer, have expressed deep discomfort about the gift, with Ms. Loomer describing initial reports as “concerning.”<sup>12</sup>

To date, President Trump has not sought the congressional approval required by the Constitution to accept the luxury airliner from the government of Qatar.<sup>13</sup> Accordingly, and absent such approval, the Trump Administration must reject this gift from a foreign nation that is clearly designed to line the President’s pockets at the expense of the American people. Moreover, to identify and evaluate the legal, ethical, operational, or other failures that may have led to this and other instances of potential corruption, and to inform future legislation, please provide the following documents and information no later than Thursday, May 29, 2025:

1. Please provide all communications, memoranda, notes, and materials relating to the potential receipt and use by the Trump Administration and the Trump Presidential Library Foundation of the luxury Boeing 747 offered as a gift from the government of Qatar;
2. Please provide all communications, memoranda, notes and other materials exchanged between the government of Qatar and any department, agency, official, or employee in the Trump Administration, including the employees of the Executive Office of the President, Department of Justice, and Department of State, or any individual acting on President Trump’s behalf, concerning the

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CNN (May 12, 2025) (online at [www.cnn.com/2025/05/12/media/maga-media-shapiro-loomer-levin-trump-qatar-plane-gift](http://www.cnn.com/2025/05/12/media/maga-media-shapiro-loomer-levin-trump-qatar-plane-gift)).

<sup>10</sup> *Trump Administration Poised to Accept 'Palace in the Sky' as a Gift for Trump from Qatar: Sources*, ABC News (May 11, 2025) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-administration-poised-accept-palace-sky-gift-trump/story?id=121680511>); *Ethics Experts Worry About The Implications Of Trump Accepting Qatar's Luxury Plane*, NPR (May 12, 2025) (online at [www.npr.org/2025/05/12/nx-s1-5395696/qatar-trump-plane-gift-ethics](http://www.npr.org/2025/05/12/nx-s1-5395696/qatar-trump-plane-gift-ethics)); *Trump Administration in Talks With Qatar Over Plane Gift*, Washington Post (May 12, 2025) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/05/11/trump-air-force-one-qatar/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/05/11/trump-air-force-one-qatar/)).

<sup>11</sup> *Trump Is Poised to Accept a Luxury 747 From Qatar for Use as Air Force One*, New York Times (May 11, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2025/05/11/us/politics/trump-qatar-jet-gift-air-force-one.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/11/us/politics/trump-qatar-jet-gift-air-force-one.html)); *Ethics Experts Worry About the Implications of Trump Accepting Qatar's Luxury Plane*, NPR (May 12, 2025) (online at [www.npr.org/2025/05/12/nx-s1-5395696/qatar-trump-plane-gift-ethics](http://www.npr.org/2025/05/12/nx-s1-5395696/qatar-trump-plane-gift-ethics)).

<sup>12</sup> *GOP Heavyweights Join Bipartisan Bashing of Trump Qatar Jet Deal*, Politico (May 13, 2025) (online at [www.politico.com/news/2025/05/13/senate-republicans-qatar-trump-jet-00345435](http://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/13/senate-republicans-qatar-trump-jet-00345435)); *Trump Feels the Heat from MAGA Over 'Great Gesture' of a Luxury Jet from Qatar*, Politico (May 12, 2025) (online at [www.politico.com/news/2025/05/12/trump-maga-loomer-plane-qatar-00341653](http://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/12/trump-maga-loomer-plane-qatar-00341653)); *Republicans Raise Concerns Over Trump's Plane Gift as He Heads to Qatar*, Wall Street Journal (May 14, 2025) (online at [www.wsj.com/politics/policy/republicans-raise-concerns-over-trumps-plane-gift-as-he-heads-to-qatar-0060bdec](http://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/republicans-raise-concerns-over-trumps-plane-gift-as-he-heads-to-qatar-0060bdec)).

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Const., art. I, § 9, cl. 8.

potential receipt and use of the luxury Boeing 747 offered as a gift from the government of Qatar;

3. Please provide all communications, memoranda, legal analyses, and materials concerning the Department of Defense's potential transfer of such gift to the presidential library foundation of President Trump at the end of the President's term;
4. Please describe all plans for the transfer of such gifts to the presidential library foundation of President Trump at the end of the President's term; and
5. Please produce all communications, memoranda, notes, or other documents detailing President Trump's plans for the use of the luxury jet upon the transfer described in request 4 above.

The Committee on Oversight and Government 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. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman