

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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February 11, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

It appears that you have chosen to protect a politically connected billionaire donor family at the expense of promoting American commerce. Reports indicate that President Trump attacked the opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, connecting Michigan and Ontario, on the same day you met with Mr. Matthew Moroun, whose family owns the competing Ambassador Bridge.¹ Your interference could increase traffic congestion, reduce economic opportunity, and damage trade between the United States and Canada. As such, I request information regarding any communications and undue influence the Moroun family may have had with the Trump Administration.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge, which President Trump once touted as a “vital economic link between our two countries,” has been under construction for years. The bridge will connect Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Ontario, expanding access along one of the busiest connections between the U.S. and Canada.² Despite these public benefits, the Moroun family, which for decades has privately owned and operated the Ambassador Bridge that currently connects Detroit and Windsor, has long attempted to derail the project, as the new Gordie Howe International Bridge will likely result in reduced toll revenue on the Ambassador Bridge.³

¹ *Bridge Owner Lobbied Administration Before Trump Blasted Competing Span to Canada*, New York Times (Feb. 10, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/02/10/world/canada/bridge-owner-trump-lutnick.html); “*Self-defeating*”: *Trump’s Gordie Howe Bridge Threat Upsets Businesses*, Detroit News (Feb. 10, 2026) (online at www.detroitnews.com/story/business/2026/02/10/business-groups-ticked-over-trump-gordie-howe-bridge-threat/88604411007/?gnt-cfr=1&gca-cat=p&gca-uir=true&gca-epi=z119829p000950n11----c11----v119829d--46--b--46--&gca-ft=232&gca-ds=sophi).

² Prime Minister of Canada, *Joint Statement from President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau* (Feb. 13, 2017) (online at www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2017/02/13/joint-statement-president-donald-j-trump-and-prime-minister-justin).

³ *Bridge Owner Lobbied Administration Before Trump Blasted Competing Span to Canada*, New York Times (Feb. 10, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/02/10/world/canada/bridge-owner-trump-lutnick.html).

The Detroit–Windsor corridor handles the largest volumes of cross-border trade in North America, including billions of dollars in automotive goods, advanced manufacturing inputs, and agricultural products.⁴ The Gordie Howe International Bridge is a strategic investment in American economic security, and improving capacity between Detroit and Windsor will strengthen the cross-border economy, improve supply chain resilience, and protect U.S. auto workers. Political interference and a resulting delay or blocking of the opening of the long-planned Gordie Howe International Bridge is likely to result in prolonged congestion and risks the disruption of cross-border production schedules, increasing costs for American manufacturers, and jeopardizing the U.S. auto industry.⁵

The Moroun family’s latest attempt to delay or block the opening of the bridge by directly appealing to you and to the Trump Administration appears to have proven successful. On Monday, February 9, 2025, you reportedly met with Mr. Moroun and then spoke with President Trump. President Trump subsequently took to social media, threatening to block the opening of the bridge unless Canada agrees to major concessions—including allowing the United States to acquire some of the toll revenue and “at least one half” of the new bridge, whose construction was fully paid by Canada. Notably, since 2019, Mr. Moroun has donated more than \$605,000 to President Trump and the Republican Party.⁶ It is flatly unacceptable and undeniably corrupt to allow a wealthy donor to dictate our foreign and economic policy in order to protect his personal business interests, and the public deserves to know if you or President Trump stand to receive additional benefits from Mr. Moroun in exchange for your sudden interference.

To ensure Congress can effectively perform its statutorily required oversight role, I request that you provide the following documents and information by February 25, 2026:

1. All documents and communications relating to your February 9, 2025, meeting with Mr. Moroun;
2. All documents and communications regarding the Gordie Howe International Bridge, the Ambassador Bridge, and/or Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney;

⁴ *Project Profile: Gordie Howe International Bridge*, Center for Innovative Finance Support, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation (accessed on Feb. 11, 2026) (online at www.fhwa.dot.gov/ipd/project_profiles/mi_gordie_howe_int_bridge.aspx); *Statement: Detroit Regional Chamber on The Gordie Howe International Bridge*, Detroit Regional Chamber (Feb. 9, 2026) (online at www.detroitchamber.com/statement-detroit-regional-chamber-on-the-gordie-howe-international-bridge/).

⁵ *Faster Crossings at The Canada-U.S. Border Via New Bridge Could Ease Supply Chain Pressures: WDBA*, CBC News (Aug. 21, 2025) (online at www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-gordie-howe-bridge-supply-chain-1.7614186); *Canada and The US: The Trade Relationship Is Huge, Profitable, and Bruised*, Detroit Regional Chamber (Dec. 22, 2025) (online at www.detroitchamber.com/canada-and-the-us-the-trade-relationship-is-huge-profitable-and-bruised/); *Two Cities, One Industry: US-Canada Auto Industry Took Generations to Build*, Detroit Regional Chamber (Dec. 22, 2025) (online at www.detroitchamber.com/two-cities-one-industry-us-canada-auto-industry-took-generations-to-build/).

⁶ *Trump’s Threat to Block Gordie Howe Bridge is Pure Oligarchy*, Detroit Metro Times (Feb. 10, 2026) (online at www.metrotimes.com/news/metro-detroit-news/trumps-threat-to-block-gordie-howe-bridge-is-pure-oligarchy/); *Trump Threatens to Block Opening of New Bridge to Canada*, New York Times (Feb. 9, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/02/09/us/politics/trump-gordie-howe-bridge-canada.html).

3. All communications between any official of the Commerce Department and any official of the White House or Executive Office of the President regarding the Gordie Howe International Bridge, the Ambassador Bridge, and/or Prime Minister Carney, including but not limited to emails, calendar invitations, text messages, and private messages sent via social networking applications;
4. All communications between Mr. Moroun, any member of the Moroun family, or any individual affiliated with Mr. Moroun and any official of the Commerce Department regarding the Gordie Howe International Bridge, the Ambassador Bridge, and/or Prime Minister Carney, including but not limited to emails, calendar invitations, text messages, and private messages sent via social networking applications;
5. All communications between Mr. Moroun, any member of the Moroun family, or any individual affiliated with Mr. Moroun and any official of the White House or Executive Office of the President regarding the Gordie Howe International Bridge, the Ambassador Bridge, and/or Prime Minister Carney, including but not limited to emails, calendar invitations, text messages, and private messages sent via social networking applications; and
6. All communications between the Commerce Department and any representative of the Canadian government regarding the Gordie Howe International Bridge and/or the Ambassador Bridge.

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 about this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Garcia', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman