

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

January 9, 2026

Mr. Michael K. Wirth
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive
Officer
Chevron
1400 Smith Street
Houston, TX 77002

Mr. Darren W. Woods
Executive Chair and Chief Executive
Officer
ExxonMobil
22777 Springwoods Village Parkway
Spring, TX 77389

Mr. Ryan Lance
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive
Officer
ConocoPhillips
925 North Eldridge Parkway
Houston, TX 77079

Mr. Robert “Doug” Lawler
President and Chief Executive Officer
Continental Resources
20 North Broadway
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Mr. Wirth, Mr. Woods, Mr. Lance, and Mr. Lawler:

President Trump has put U.S. oil companies at the center of his escalating interventions in Venezuela. On January 3, 2026, just hours after the U.S. military operation capturing Venezuela’s president, Nicolás Maduro, was carried out absent congressional authorization, President Trump stated that U.S. oil companies would “go in” to Venezuela “to take out money,” “take back the oil,” and be “reimbursed for what [you’re] doing.”¹ He also stated that “we’re gonna have a presence in Venezuela as pertains to oil” and that “we’re gonna be taking out a

¹ *Press Conference: Donald Trump Discusses the Capture of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela*, Roll Call (Jan. 3, 2026) (online at <https://rollcall.com/factbase/trump/transcript/donald-trump-press-conference-venezuela-maduro-january-3-2026/>).

tremendous amount wealth out of the ground.”² Oversight Committee Democrats are investigating any corrupt motives for private or personal gain that may be driving the Trump Administration’s decision to put American lives at risk to seize control of a sovereign nation’s natural resources.

The President’s comments came as a surprise to the American people, but perhaps not to your executives. Reportedly, President Trump had privately told oil companies to “get ready” for political changes in Venezuela approximately one month before the rendition operation.³ Congress and the American public had no comparable notice. Additionally, at least ten days before the raid, Administration officials had reportedly told companies, “you gotta go in [to Venezuela] if you want to play and get reimbursed,” according to one industry official.⁴ During a recent discussion with reporters on Air Force One, the President appeared to confirm that he had spoken to “all” oil companies before the raid on Venezuelan soil.⁵ These statements contradict other public reporting, including reference to sources at U.S. oil companies that claimed they did not have contact with the White House either before or after the rendition of President Maduro.⁶

Previous reports have demonstrated the close relationship between the Trump Administration and oil companies. On May 9, 2024, the *Washington Post* reported that former President Trump had convened about two dozen oil executives at Mar-a-Lago, promising favorable policies in exchange for \$1 billion in campaign contributions.⁵ Fossil fuel industry interests have contributed heavily to President Trump and have benefitted tens of billions of dollars as a result of President Trump’s policy changes.⁷ Now, oil companies reportedly want the Trump Administration to provide “boots-on-the-ground security and some financial security” in Venezuela.⁸ Oil company executives are reportedly scheduled to meet at the White House today to discuss plans for Venezuela with President Trump and cabinet officials.⁹

Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez, who has assumed de jure leadership over the country in Maduro’s absence, previously directed Venezuela’s state-owned oil company to

² *Id.*

³ *Trump’s Hint to Oil Executives Weeks Before Maduro Ouster: ‘Get Ready’*, Wall Street Journal (Jan. 5, 2026) (online at www.wsj.com/business/energy-oil/venezuela-chevron-trump-strikes-maduro-195eb6e3).

⁴ *Trump Admin Sends Tough Private Message to Oil Companies on Venezuela*, Politico (Jan. 3, 2026) (online at www.politico.com/news/2026/01/03/trump-venezuela-oil-us-companies-return-00709782).

⁵ *Donald Trump Says He Spoke to Oil Companies Before Venezuela Action*, Newsweek (Jan. 5, 2026) (online at www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-oil-companies-venezuela-action-11307459).

⁶ *Oil Companies Contradict Donald Trump’s Remarks on Venezuela Consultation*, Newsweek (Jan. 5, 2026) (online at www.newsweek.com/oil-companies-dispute-trump-venezuela-maduro-consultation-11310309).

⁷ *Candidate Trump Promised Oil Executives a Windfall. Now, They’re Getting It.*, New York Times (July 30, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/07/30/climate/trump-campaign-funding-oil-industry-tax-breaks.html).

⁸ *Trump Administration Launches New Bid to Pressure US Oil Companies on Venezuela*, Politico (Jan. 5, 2026) (online at www.politico.com/news/2026/01/05/trump-venezuela-oil-fields-00710893).

⁹ *Trump to Meet with Oil Execs About Venezuela on Friday*, Politico (Jan. 6, 2026) (online at www.politico.com/news/2026/01/06/trump-oil-execs-venezuela-00713364).

donate \$500,000 to President Trump's first inauguration and appears to be cooperating with President Trump's plans.¹⁰

To determine who stands to privately or personally benefit from President Trump's actions and whether corrupt motives were a driving force in U.S. foreign policy decisions, we ask that you provide answers and associated materials to the following questions and information requests by January 23, 2026:

1. All communications between your company, including on the personal devices of its executives, and the White House, Department of Defense, Department of State, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior, or any member of the Trump Administration regarding Venezuela before January 3, 2026;
2. All communications between your company, including on the personal devices of its executives, and the White House, Department of Defense, Department of State, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior, or any member of the Trump Administration regarding Venezuela between January 3, 2026, to present;
3. All communications between your company and the Venezuelan government from January 21, 2025, to present;
4. All communications to date between your company, including on the personal devices of its executives, and any member of the Trump Organization regarding Venezuela;
5. All communications to date between your company, including on the personal devices of its executives, and Paul Singer or any employee of Elliott Management regarding Venezuela;
6. The names and titles of any individuals from your company who attended a meeting with President Trump and members of his administration on or about January 9, 2026, to discuss plans related to Venezuela;
7. Copies of any materials distributed or shared with attendees by any participant or entity during, in advance of, or following the meeting;
8. A description of any requests made by your company to the Trump Administration or any member of the Trump Administration related to Venezuela, including but not limited to policy changes, security guarantees, financial assurances (e.g., allocation of revenues from extracting and selling Venezuelan oil, government subsidies, purchase or price guarantees, loan assistance, or direct appropriations), or any other incentives;

¹⁰ *How Delcy Rodriguez Courted Trump and Rose to Power in Venezuela*, NBC News (Jan. 7, 2026) (online at www.nbcnews.com/world/venezuela/delcy-rodriguez-courted-trump-rose-to-power-rcna252772); *Trump Says U.S. Oversight of Venezuela Could Last for Years*, New York Times (Jan. 8, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/01/08/us/politics/trump-interview-venezuela.html).

9. A description of any promises made by the Trump Administration or any member of the Trump Administration to your company or other companies related to Venezuela, including but not limited to policy changes, security guarantees, financial assurances (e.g., allocation of revenues from extracting and selling Venezuelan oil, government subsidies, purchase or price guarantees, loan assistance, or direct appropriations), or any other incentives;
10. The measures your company has taken to ensure that its dealings with the Trump Administration, any member of the Trump Administration, and the Venezuelan regime comply with U.S. anticorruption laws, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act;
11. What outstanding or residual claims, if any, your company has to assets in Venezuela; and
12. Any information regarding the potential for oil extraction in Venezuela including risks, reserve size, costs, quality of the reserves, and legal rights.

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,



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



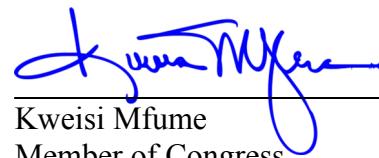
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



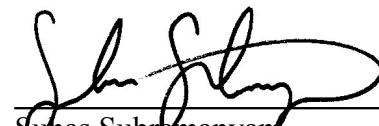
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Sunas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress

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James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress