

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

March 14, 2018

Donald Trump, Jr., Executive Vice President  
Allen Weisselberg, Chief Financial Officer  
The Trump Organization  
725 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

Mr. Laurent Morali, President  
Kushner Companies LLC  
666 5th Avenue  
New York, NY 10103

Dear Mr. Trump, Mr. Weisselberg, and Mr. Morali:

We are writing to seek documents relating to business relationships between the Trump Organization and Kushner Companies, LLC, following media reports that the two firms are actively developing new business deals.

These previously undisclosed business relationships between the Trump Organization and Kushner Companies extend the already sprawling number of potential conflicts of interest created by the appointment of President Trump's son-in-law as a Senior Advisor at the White House—and the failure of both President Trump and Mr. Kushner to fully divest their assets.

According to the *New York Times*, “the Trump Organization began managing a Kushner-owned hotel in Livingston, N.J.” last year. Now, the “Kushners are in private discussions to have President Trump’s company manage at least one hotel” in a new development at the Jersey Shore in which Mr. Kushner “is expected to eventually own 20 percent.”<sup>1</sup>

According to this report, “The Trump Organization’s outside ethics advisor has raised questions about a potential deal—one reason the two-year-long discussions have not been completed.”<sup>2</sup>

As the *Times* reported: “The growing relationship between the families could be helpful to the Trumps, as the ethical restraints they voluntarily adopted after the election have proved to be a hindrance to new business.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Out of Public View, Trumps and Kushners are Talking Business*, New York Times (Mar. 10, 2018) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2018/03/10/business/trumps-kushners-hotel-deals.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/10/business/trumps-kushners-hotel-deals.html)).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

These connections present a host of potential ethics problems. One concern is that they “blur the line between family, business, and politics in ways that lack precedent”<sup>4</sup> Another is that “the president might not want to do anything that would upset the Kushner family agreement to do business with his company.”<sup>5</sup> Another is that if “the Trumps manage a Kushner property that received foreign or domestic government funding, it could test the Constitution’s emoluments clauses, which essentially prohibit the president from accepting certain gifts from foreign or domestic governments.”<sup>6</sup>

It is also deeply concerning that the Trump Organization would seek to deepen its financial ties to the Kushner Companies when foreign officials reportedly have discussed how to manipulate Mr. Kushner “by taking advantage of his complex business arrangements.”<sup>7</sup>

The American people deserve to know about these secret business transactions involving President Trump and a top adviser and his family—and their consequences—as well as whether these transactions are being used to bypass federal ethics rules and guidelines.

To help us evaluate the business relationships between the Trump Organization and Kushner Companies, we ask that you provide the following documents and information by April 6, 2018:

1. all communications between the Trump Organization and Kushner Companies from January 20, 2017, to the present;
2. all documents referring or relating to any current or proposed property or business agreements between the Trump Organization and Kushner Companies;
3. all documents referring or relating to ethics concerns pertaining to any current or proposed business arrangements between the Trump Organization and Kushner Companies, including all documents or communications authored by the Trump Organization’s outside ethics advisor and all documents or communications involving federal ethics officials; and
4. all documents referring or relating to investments made by any entity in properties or businesses in which the Trump Organization and Kushner Companies have current or proposed joint business arrangements.

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

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

<sup>7</sup> *Kushner’s Overseas Contacts Raise Concerns as Foreign Officials Seek Leverage*, Washington Post (Feb. 27, 2018) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/kushners-overseas-contacts-raise-concerns-as-foreign-officials-seek-leverage/2018/02/27/16bbc052-18c3-11e8-942d-16a950029788\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/kushners-overseas-contacts-raise-concerns-as-foreign-officials-seek-leverage/2018/02/27/16bbc052-18c3-11e8-942d-16a950029788_story.html)).

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Lucinda Lessley with Ranking Member Cummings' staff at (202) 225-5051 or Brian Cohen with Senator Warren's staff at 202-224-4543.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform



Elizabeth Warren  
U.S. Senator

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform