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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

A. JAY KHOSLA, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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March 8, 2018

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

On Monday, the Trump Organization announced it had transferred the profits from “foreign government patronage” at its hotels to the U.S. Treasury. According to a statement from Trump Organization Executive Vice President and Chief Compliance Counsel George Sorial, the “voluntary donation” was made on February 22 and includes profits received from foreign guests between January 20, 2017 and December 31, 2017. According to press reports, the Treasury has confirmed receipt of these payments.<sup>1</sup>

The Senate Finance Committee has oversight jurisdiction of the Treasury Department generally, and the acceptance of payments to reduce the public debt specifically.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the Trump Organization’s receipt and subsequent handling of proceeds from foreign governments is a matter of significant public interest. In particular, there is significant concern that the receipt of such payments by the Trump Organization violates the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution.<sup>3</sup> The Emoluments Clause specifies a role for Congress in considering such payments, making proper oversight vital. In light of these interests please provide the following information.

1. Please identify the total size of the payment received from the Trump Organization. If Treasury has received more than one transfer, please itemize the transfers and provide the relevant dates.
2. Please describe where in the Treasury the payment was received, how the payment was processed, whether any conditions were attached to the payment, and to what fund the payment was applied.
3. 31 U.S.C. § 3113(b) grants the Secretary of the Treasury authority to reject a gift to reduce the public debt “when the rejection is in the interest of the Government.” Was

<sup>1</sup> Tami Abdollah, Trump Org. donates foreign profits but won’t say how much, Associated Press, Feb. 26, 2018, <https://apnews.com/c52f6f9db2e745cdb1345018782288d0>.

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., S. Rep. No. 87-273 (1961).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Complaint of Blumenthal et. al. v. Trump, No. 1:17-cv-01154 (D.D.C. 2017)

any consideration given to whether or not rejection of this payment would be in the best interest of the Government? If so, please provide that analysis.

4. If Treasury discussed these payments with any other government agency, please summarize those communications and provide any analysis prepared in this matter.

In addition, I ask for your commitment to provide information about any future payments from the Trump Organization as they are made. Please provide this information to my office no later than March 22, 2018. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Wyden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Wyden  
Ranking Minority Member