United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6200

August 18, 2026

Ambassador Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
600 17th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer:

I write to request that the Office of the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") provide me with information about its role in imposing tariffs on Belgian imports and the presentation of high-value luxury gifts to President Trump by foreign commercial interests.

On January 28, 2026, I wrote to your office regarding the sudden reduction of tariffs on Swiss goods from 39% to 15%, an action taken just ten days after the President received a 1-kilogram gold bar and a rare Rolex clock from Swiss business leaders.[1] There now appears to be another glaring example of a foreign industry attempting to use gilded gifts to influence active American trade policy, this time involving the Belgian diamond sector.

The circumstances surrounding the Antwerp diamond industry's tariff status over the last year point to a deeply troubling sequence of events. In September 2025, the Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) successfully secured a zero percent import tariff on Antwerp's annual export of more than $2 billion in polished diamonds to the United States.[2] That highly favorable exemption was abruptly erased on February 24, 2026, when the administration was forced to pivot following a Supreme Court ruling and impose a blanket 10% global tariff under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. This sudden reversal sent a shockwave through the Belgian economy, which was compounded by the administration's public threats to hike that rate even further to the statutory maximum of 15%.[3]

[1] *Wyden Letter to USTR on Swiss Tariffs*, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance (Jan. 28, 2026), https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/wyden_letter_to_ustr_on_swiss_tariffs.pdf.
[2] *Belgian diamond group that won tariff relief gifted Trump a lavishly encrusted ring*, The Associated Press (July 3, 2026), https://apnews.com/article/antwerp-belgium-diamond-ring-trump-3d23fb3ff8a7bab763dd51880a1987ca.
[3] *Antwerp Polished Diamonds May Have Lost Duty-Free Status*, JCK (Feb. 26, 2026), https://www.jckonline.com/editorial-article/belgian-polished-diamonds/.

It is against this backdrop of financial panic and active threats of a further 5% tariff increase that the AWDC presented the lavish "Freedom 250" ring to the U.S. Ambassador to Belgium during an event in Brussels marking America's 250th birthday.[4] Estimated to be worth up to $35,000, this 18-karat watch-sized gold piece is encrusted with 321 diamonds, 56 sapphires, 13 emeralds, and 6 rubies. It was heavily personalized, featuring the engraving, *"Crafted in Antwerp for Donald John Trump,"* for which the President subsequently recorded a video message explicitly thanking his "friends from Antwerp."[5] Weeks ago, natural diamonds were once again exempted from tariffs, this time imposed under Section 301.[6]

The timing of this gift bears all the hallmarks of an influence campaign intended to stall further tariff increases or secure a new, legally creative carve-out from the Section 122 duties. This sequence of events creates the perception that foreign industries believe they can buy tariff relief through the presentation of ostentatious gifts intended for the President. It raises serious questions about potential violations of the Emoluments Clause of the U.S. Constitution and fundamentally undermines the credibility of U.S. policy. American businesses and workers rely on the administration to negotiate and set policy based on the economic interests of the United States, not the personal enrichment of the President.

To understand the circumstances surrounding trade policy and the Belgian diamond industry, I request that you provide answers to the following questions no later than September 1, 2026:

1) Did USTR, or any official within the administration, engage in discussions with Belgian representatives or the AWDC regarding a potential exemption, reduction, or cap on the 10% tariff imposed under Section 122 or tariffs imposed under Section 301?

2) Did USTR prepare any policy briefs or recommendations regarding the proposed increase of Section 122 tariffs to 15% specifically concerning polished diamonds?
   a) Did the President or any White House advisor provide directives on this matter following the June 2026 event in Brussels?

3) Did USTR or any administration official have any communication with the AWDC or its affiliates regarding the commissioning, design, or planned presentation of the "Freedom 250" ring?

4) Was USTR consulted on whether the U.S. Ambassador to Belgium should accept a gift of this value from a foreign commercial entity actively impacted by U.S. trade policy?

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[4] *Belgian diamond group that won tariff relief gifted Trump a lavishly encrusted ring*, The Associated Press (July 3, 2026), https://apnews.com/article/antwerp-belgium-diamond-ring-trump-3d23fb3ff8a7bab763dd51880a1987ca.
[5] *Belgian diamond group that won tariff relief gifted Trump a lavishly encrusted ring*, The Associated Press (July 3, 2026), https://apnews.com/article/antwerp-belgium-diamond-ring-trump-3d23fb3ff8a7bab763dd51880a1987ca.
[6] *How Diamonds, Paprika and Fertilizer Won Relief From Trump's Tariffs*, The New York Times (July 30, 2026), https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/30/business/economy/trump-tariffs-exemptions.html.

If you have any questions, you may contact my Senate Finance Committee oversight staff at 202-224-4515. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance