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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

GREGG RICHARD, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSHUA SHEINKMAN, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

May 22, 2026

Senator Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Crapo,

We're writing to demand an immediate Finance Committee investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding President Trump's so-called "Anti-Weaponization Fund" and the Department of Justice directive that cuts off any audits of the President, his family or his businesses. The fund, which was established as a result of the President's lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), has been called "one of the single most corrupt acts in American history" by an ethics watchdog¹ and seems designed to secretly hand out taxpayer dollars to the President's political allies and supporters, such as his cadre of election deniers and January 6th insurrectionists.² Longstanding statute prohibits the President and certain other executive branch employees from, directly or indirectly, directing or interfering in IRS audits.³ The administration's actions require an immediate Congressional response.

As you are well aware, on January 29, 2026 the President sued the IRS and the U.S. Treasury for an outrageous sum of \$10 billion over the improper release of tax information during his first term in office.⁴ On May 18, 2026 the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced that as part of a "settlement agreement" with the President, it will create the "Anti-Weaponization Fund" which will usurp over \$1.7 billion in taxpayer dollars for the express purpose of transferring American tax dollars to those the DOJ describes as victims of "weaponization and lawfare."⁵ DOJ then expanded the settlement agreement further on May 19, 2026, adding a provision that will prevent

¹ Washington Post, *Trump's Deal to Drop Suit Against IRS Creates \$1.8B 'Anti-Weaponization Fund'*, May 18, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/05/18/trump-will-end-10-billion-lawsuit-against-irs-over-leaked-tax-records/>.

² Press Release, Dept. of Justice, *Justice Department Announces Anti-Weaponization Fund*, May 18, 2026, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-anti-weaponization-fund>.

³ IRC sec. 7217.

⁴ Associated Press, *Trump Sues IRS and Treasury for \$10 Billion over Leaked Tax Info*, Jan. 29, 2026, <https://apnews.com/article/trump-treasury-irs-tax-records-e3a79e1bfdc94a663504754af80ce183>.

⁵ Press Release, Dept. of Justice, *Justice Department Announces Anti-Weaponization Fund*, May 18, 2026, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-anti-weaponization-fund>.

the IRS from pursuing, or continuing to pursue, any audits of returns filed before the date of the agreement against President Trump, his family members, or his businesses.⁶ The expanded settlement agreement states that the “United States releases, waives, acquits, and forever discharges each of the plaintiffs from, and his hereby forever barred and precluded from prosecuting or pursuing any and all claims...” as of the date of the settlement agreement.⁷

The Treasury Department’s actions were integral to the creation of this fund. The settlement agreement was signed by so-called “IRS Chief Executive Officer” Frank Bisignano,⁸ and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent took suspiciously timed action to cancel contracts with an IRS consultant days ahead of the lawsuit.⁹ This new fund will draw money directly from the Judgement Fund, placing the authority to issue payments directly in the hands of Treasury Secretary Bessent.¹⁰ Reports that Treasury General Counsel Brian Morrissey resigned his position the same day this agreement was signed further underscore the need for oversight.¹¹ Furthermore, reporting indicates that lawyers at the IRS provided Treasury officials with a 25-page memorandum recommending the DOJ move to dismiss President Trump’s lawsuit, but it is unclear what Sec. Bessent or others did with this information.¹²

Committee members previously sent two requests to Secretary Bessent seeking information about Treasury’s actions related to this lawsuit. The letters asked questions about the Treasury’s involvement in the negotiations, whether the Department would recommend that the DOJ fight or settle the case, and the Secretary’s decision to abruptly cancel IRS contracts days ahead of Trump’s lawsuit.¹³ Each time the Treasury refused to provide any answers on their role in this scheme, in violation of Sec. Bessent’s sworn commitment to you during his confirmation hearing to be responsive to all members of this Committee.

This so called “settlement,” which circumvents proper judicial review and the congressional appropriations process, amounts to an unprecedented looting of taxpayer dollars. Any such graft by a sitting President must be subject to strenuous Congressional oversight. These actions by the

⁶ New York Times, *Trump’s Deal on the Compensation Fund Blocks the IRS from Auditing the President and his Family*, May 19, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/19/us/trump-irs-doj-lawsuit-audit.html?smid=url-share>.

⁷ Settlement Agreement in *Trump v. Internal Revenue Service*, Office of the Attorney General, May 19, 2026, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1441216/dl>.

⁸ *President Donald J. Trump, et. al., v. Internal Revenue Service, et al.*, No. 1:26-cv-20609-KMW (S. D. Fl. May 18, 2026) (Settlement Agreement), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1441201/dl?inline>.

⁹ Press Release, Treasury Dept., *Treasury Cancels Contracts with Booz Allen Hamilton*, Jan. 26, 2026, <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0371>.

¹⁰ See *id.*, and Bureau of the Fiscal Serv., Judgement Fund, last updated March 26, 2026, <https://fiscal.treasury.gov/payments-from-government/judgment-fund>.

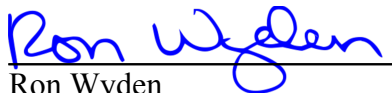
¹¹ New York Times, *Top Treasury Lawyer Resigns after Creation of ‘Anti-Weaponization Fund’*, May 18, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/18/business/anti-weaponization-fund-brian-morrissey-treasury.html>.

¹² New York Times, *The I.R.S. Through it Could Fight Trump’s Lawsuit, but it Reached a Deal Anyway*, May 19, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/19/admin/irs-trump-lawsuit-deal.html?unlocked_article_code=1.jlA.mlGB.aJsBJlksQds1&smid=url-share.

¹³ See Letter from Sens. Wyden and Warren to U.S. Treasury Sec. Scott Bessent, Feb. 3, 2026, https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/020426_wyden_warren_letter_to_treasury_doj_on_trump_irs_lawsuit.pdf; and Letter from Sen. Wyden to U.S. Treasury Sec. Scott Bessent, April 15, 2026, https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/rm_wyden_letter_to_sec_bessent_re_presidents_irs_lawsuit_41526pdf.pdf.

President, “one of the single most corrupt acts in American history,” demand a full and thorough investigation by this Committee.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



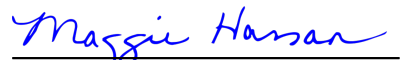
Michael Bennet
United States Senator
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Energy,
Natural Resources, and
Infrastructure



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



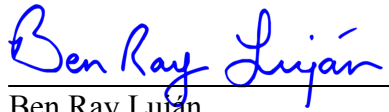
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



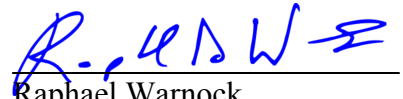
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



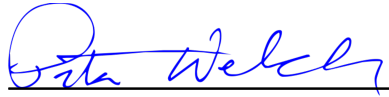
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator