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

February 5, 2018

Dear Sirs:

America's earliest leaders were fearful of the influence of foreign governments on our democracy. They worried that our officials would be vulnerable to manipulation by foreigners bearing gifts.¹ As a result, the framers of the Constitution included a clause prohibiting officeholders from accepting "any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State" without the consent of Congress.

President Donald Trump made an unprecedented and improper decision to retain his worldwide business empire and to place you – his sons – in charge of this business. As a result, you have been handed the obligation to prevent serious conflicts of interest that could harm our country.

We are gratified to learn that you may be taking some of these concerns seriously. In a December interview with the New York Times, Eric Trump said: "Making sure every 'i' is dotted and every 't' is crossed and everything is perfect – does that kill deals? One hundred percent. Is it the right thing to do when your father is commander in chief, 100 percent it is. Will we have to do it the day he is out of office? No we won't."²

Still, we remain concerned about your company's business dealings. The same Times story reported that you have proceeded with Trump-branded real estate developments overseas. Governments in Indonesia and Panama are spending public funds to make Trump-branded developments a reality,³ raising even more conflict of interest concerns, according to a McClatchy News story. We are also deeply troubled that many of the Trump Organization's worldwide business partners have been connected to criminal activity, as BuzzFeed News,⁴ the New Yorker⁵ and others have reported.

As a result, it is essential for the public to know as much information as possible about who is doing business with the Trump Organization.

On January 11, 2017, Trump attorney Sheri Dillon announced that your father "wants to do more than what the Constitution requires" to dispel conflict of interest concerns and would "voluntarily donate all

¹ https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/gs_121616_emoluments-clause1.pdf

² <http://nyti.ms/2BWG348>

³ <https://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/article192131074.html>

⁴ <http://bzfd.it/2BYcGyl>

⁵ <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/08/21/trumps-business-of-corruption>

profits from foreign government payments made to his hotel to the United States Treasury. This way, it is the American people who will profit.”

But to date, no donation has been made. The Trump Organization rebuffed a Congressional request⁶ for more detailed information, instead sending an eight-page pamphlet claiming that it was “impractical” to fully identify foreign Trump organization patrons and asserted that doing so would “diminish the guest experience of our brand.”⁷

The methodology outlined in your pamphlet also contains key flaws, as it would not require any donation from unprofitable Trump Organization properties that receive foreign government revenue. It also would not account for foreign governments that could be intentionally paying for events or rooms above the standard market rate.

A year into President Trump’s administration and now into the second month of the calendar year, there is no reason the Trump Organization has not already made the promised contribution to the U.S. Treasury. The American people have a right to expect timely payment of that donation, and some clear accounting of how the amount was calculated.

In conjunction with your overdue promised payment, we request that you disclose:

- A detailed description of your process for identifying payments at Trump properties from foreign governments.
- A breakdown of profits from those payments, by Trump property.
- Detailed financial metrics for all Trump properties for the year to President Trump’s inauguration and for the year following his inauguration, including average daily rate, revenue per room, average occupancy rate and operating profit per room.
- A listing of all events hosted by foreign governments at your properties, payments received for each of those events and the cost to the properties of holding each of those events.

It is well past time for the American people to learn how much the Trump Organization has earned from foreign government patrons during the period of President Trump’s presidency.

Sincerely,



Robert Weissman

President, Public Citizen

Cc: Bobby Burchfield, Trump Organization; George Sorial, Trump Organization

⁶ <http://bit.ly/2BWjIJC>

⁷ <http://bit.ly/2BXv5eC>