

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

January 13, 2017

Dear Chairman Chaffetz,

President-elect Trump's myriad conflicts of interest present an unprecedented situation in American history that could undermine his presidency and hurt the country. The financial arrangement outlined by President-elect Trump at his press conference earlier this week falls woefully short of the independently-managed blind trust necessary to avoid conflicts and violations of the Constitution's Emoluments Clause. His complex financial dealings lead to many unanswered questions about his administration. Common Cause and our 700,000-plus members and supporters across the country, including 520 in Utah's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, strongly encourage you to hold hearings to fully analyze the many conflicts of interest and potential Emoluments Clause violations by President-elect Trump and his administration. Accountability must be a key tenant of any administration, and your committee can help provide transparency to restore faith and confidence in government for the American people.

After President-elect Trump is sworn into office, we request that you hold a series of hearings that address the following questions and issues:

- The personal financial disclosure reports filed by President-elect Trump during the campaign reveal that President-elect Trump owns in whole or in part, and/or serves as an officer of, more than 500 businesses. However, the personal financial disclosure forms provide no additional detail regarding the finances and operations of these 500+ businesses. In order to monitor potential conflicts of interest and Emoluments Clause violations, American taxpayers require transparency in these business operations. Will you and your colleagues demand full transparency with respect to the Trump Organization and its many affiliated businesses?
- Which Trump Organization affiliated businesses currently have debt? And to whom? In which countries are those businesses located, and how could they affect U.S. policymaking toward those countries?
- Although [you called](#) on then-candidate Trump to release his tax returns in August 2016, he has refused to release these documents, as has been done by all modern American presidential candidates. How can you ensure that President-elect Trump will release his tax returns going forward so all Americans can have an accurate picture of how his presidency affects his net worth? Will you and your colleagues call on him again to release these documents?

- Although President-elect Trump is not legally required to file his next personal finance disclosure report until May 2018, all other modern American presidents have completed one in their first year in office. Will President-elect Trump complete one in 2017? Who will call on him to do so?
- What are the details of the business arrangements made for President-elect Trump's children and immediate family members regarding the Trump Organization? What happens if these arrangements are broken?
- Although President-elect Trump said he would not conduct any new business dealings overseas during his presidency, he did not make that same promise for domestic dealings. How can we ensure that the overseas pledge is kept, and are there instances in which President-elect Trump should recuse himself from certain domestic policymaking because of Trump Organization domestic dealings?
- Should President-elect Trump recuse himself from certain foreign policymaking decisions that would directly affect the bottom line of Trump Organization business operations in certain foreign countries?
- Due to President-elect Trump's ownership of the Trump Organization, and the Trump Organization's business operations overseas, the President-elect will likely violate the Constitution's Emoluments Clause soon after being sworn into office. How can that be rectified, and if it is not, what should happen?

These and other critical unanswered questions about President-elect Trump's vast financial dealings must be examined by your committee. You are quoted in a January 12, 2017, [Politico article](#) stating, "President-elect Trump's obligation is to comply with the laws on the books. It appears he is going to great lengths to be as responsible as possible and comply with those requirements." However, only public hearings – with the introduction of key documentation – can help determine if President-elect Trump is complying with all laws. You made repeated statements throughout the summer and fall of 2016 about the need for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to fully investigate the next president. The American public fully expects you to keep your promise so we can ensure that the Trump administration is held to the highest ethical standards.

Sincerely,

Karen Hobert Flynn  
President  
Common Cause

cc: Congressman Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member