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One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

March 2, 2020

The Honorable Brian Bulatao
Undersecretary of Secretary for Management
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Bulatao:

We write to follow-up on Chairman Engel's July 22, 2019 letter that expressed concern regarding reports that the State Department has spent tens of thousands of U.S. taxpayer dollars in payments to businesses owned by the Trump Organization, in possible violation of the Domestic Emoluments Clause of the U.S. Constitution.[i] Based on the information we received, we have questions regarding whether and how the State Department's resources are being appropriately spent and whether Department officials are ensuring that such payments comply with Department regulations and constitutional prohibitions against the President personally profiting from his office.

In response to the Committee's request, the Department provided the Committee with less than fifty documents pertaining to spending at Trump properties in connection with State Department travel. Many of these documents are undated or lack context. We request a status update on the Department's efforts to search for and produce documents responsive to the July 22 letter, and whether and when we can expect additional productions.

Moreover, we have recently come into possession of additional documents that were not produced to the Committee in the Department's response to the July 22, 2019 letter, though these documents seem plainly covered by that request. We have since furnished these additional documents to the Department and reiterate our request for an explanation of what they indicate, as well as when and by whom they were compiled.

In order to address these questions so that the Committee may conduct its oversight of Department expenditures, including whether any legislative changes are necessary to prevent the

Department from violating the Constitution, we request a briefing by staff from the Bureau of Budget and Planning at your earliest convenience to discuss the matters we have raised here.

Please have your staff reach out to the majority staff of the Committee on Foreign Affairs at 202-225-5021 or HFAC_Majority_Oversight@mail.house.gov by Tuesday, March 10, 2020 to schedule this briefing.

I thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Eliot L. Engel

ELIOT L. ENGEL
Chairman

Joaquin Castro

JOAQUIN CASTRO
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

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[i] *See* U.S. Constitution, art. II, § 1, cl. 7 ("The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them".