

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 5, 2019

Donald Trump, Jr. and Eric Trump
Executive Vice Presidents
Trump Organization
725 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Allen Weisselberg
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Trump Organization
Trustee, Donald J. Trump Revocable Trust

Mickael Damelincourt
Managing Director
Trump International Hotel, Washington D.C.
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Washington D.C. 20004

Dear Messrs. Trump, Mr. Damelincourt and Mr. Weisselberg,

We are writing to request additional information regarding a recent report that T-Mobile U.S. Inc. (T-Mobile) executives started to regularly patronize President Trump's hotel in Washington, D.C. immediately after announcing a proposed merger with Sprint Corporation (Sprint), which must undergo review by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). These transactions raise questions about whether T-Mobile is attempting to curry favor with the President through the Trump Organization and exacerbate our concerns about the President's continued financial relationship with the Trump Organization.

On April 29, 2018, T-Mobile and Sprint announced a \$26 billion merger deal, "moving to create a new telecommunications giant ... [that] would have more than 100 million subscribers."¹ The two companies had previously attempted to merge in 2014 but abandoned the deal after concluding that it "would never pass regulatory muster."²

One day after the April 2018 announcement of the merger, DOJ "opened an investigation into the proposed merger" and has since been coordinating with the FCC in

¹ New York Times, "Sprint and T-Mobile to Merge, in Bid to Remake Wireless Market," Michael J. de la Merced and Cecilia Kang, April 29, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/29/business/dealbook/sprint-t-mobile-deal.html>.

² Forbes, "There'd Be No Wireless Wars Without The Blocked T-Mobile Merger, So Where Does That Leave Comcast-TWC?," Mark Rogowsky, August 27, 2014, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/markrogowsky/2014/08/27/t-mobile-and-sprint-continue-to-battle-thanks-to-the-government/#490f11b31603>.

its investigative efforts.³ That same day, staff at the Trump International Hotel were reportedly provided with a list of “VIP Arrivals’ ... including [T-Mobile’s] chief operating officer, chief technology officer, chief strategy officer, chief financial officer and its outspoken celebrity chief executive, John Legere.”⁴ Over the next few months, T-Mobile executives “returned to President Trump’s hotel repeatedly,” reportedly spending thousands of dollars, booking “38 nights of hotel stays” at the Trump International Hotel. John Legere, T-Mobile’s Chief Executive, “appears to have made at least four visits to the Trump hotel, walking the lobby in his T-Mobile gear.”⁵

This is only the latest instance in which companies or special interest groups have reportedly attempted to curry favor with the administration through the Trump Organization. An August 2018 review by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington identified “at least thirteen domestic special interest groups [that] have lobbied the White House Office or Executive Office of the President during the same or following quarter as when they patronized one of President Trump’s properties.”⁶

These reported transactions are especially troubling because President Trump has not fully divested from his interests in the Trump Organization. The revocable trust the President established can “‘distribute net income or principal to Donald J. Trump at his request’ or whenever his son and longtime attorney ‘deem appropriate.’ That can include everything from profits to the underlying assets,” which means that the money spent by T-Mobile executives at Trump Organization businesses could end up being a back-door method to pay off the President.⁷

The recent reports surrounding T-Mobile executives’ decision to patronize the Trump International Hotel – and the extent to which the President could potentially receive financial gain from these visits – are concerning. To address these concerns, we ask that you provide answers to the following questions by February 18, 2019.

3 Letter from Scott Scheele, Chief of DOJ Telecommunications & Broadband Section to Kris Monteith, Chief of FCC’s Wirelines Competition Bureau, April 30, 2018,

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1050138392831/2018%20Kris%20Monteith%2C%20Esq.%2C%20Chief.pdf>

4 Washington Post, “T-Mobile announced a merger needing Trump administration approval. The next day, 9 executives had reservations at Trump’s hotel,” Jonathan O’Connell and David A. Fahrenthold, January 16, https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/a-place-i-feel-very-comfortable-t-mobile-executives-seeking-government-approval-for-merger-stayed-at-trumps-hotel-repeatedly/2019/01/15/6a114d3e-142c-11e9-b6ad-9cfd62dbb0a8_story.html.


5 *Id.*

6 Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, “Special Interests Patronizing Trump Properties Also Seek White House Influence,” Sam Desai and Ally Johnson, August 15, 2018, <https://www.citizensforethics.org/special-interests-patronizing-trump-properties-also-seek-white-house-influence/>

7 ProPublica, “Trump Lawyer Confirms President Can Pull Money From His Businesses Whenever He Wants,” Derek Kravitz and Al Shaw, April 4, 2017, <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-pull-money-his-businesses-when-ever-he-wants-without-telling-us>.

1. Recent reporting indicates that there are “VIP lists” of customers staying at the Trump International Hotel, some of which have included several T-Mobile executives.
 - a. How and why is this “VIP List” prepared?
 - b. What benefits do individuals on the VIP receive?
 - c. What are the policies for distribution of this list? Which individuals – either inside or outside of the Trump Organization – receive a copy of the list?
 - d. Did you or anyone else ever provide any copies of “VIP lists” including ones that contained T-Mobile executives to the President, White House officials or any other administration officials?
2. When did T-Mobile officials make reservations at the Trump International Hotel? Did they discuss these reservations or matters related to these reservations with you?
3. Did you have any discussions with White House or other administration officials – including President Trump – regarding T-Mobile executives staying at the Trump International Hotel?
 - a. If so, with whom did you have these discussions and when did they occur?
4. How much money did T-Mobile officials spend at the Trump International Hotel?
 - a. What was the disposition of these funds?
 - b. Were any of these funds distributed to President Trump?

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress