

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 13, 2016

President-elect Donald J. Trump
Trump-Pence Transition Office
1717 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President-elect Trump:

We write today regarding the steps you should be taking to address ethical concerns related to potential conflicts of interest as you prepare to become the President of the United States.

As a businessman with assets around the world, your holdings have the potential for serious conflicts between the national interest and your personal financial interests. We understand that the Office of Government Ethics, an independent, non-partisan ethics agency created in the wake of the scandals of Watergate, has recently advised you that the only way to resolve these conflicts of interest is through divestiture of your businesses.

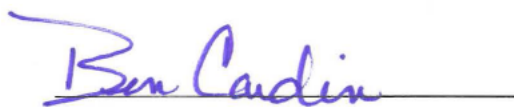
In your public statements, you have referenced that the President is not subject to the restrictions of federal conflict of interest laws. However, we understand the Office of Government Ethics has advised presidents across administrations to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with federal conflict of interest laws and standards of conduct regulations (citation omitted). The President is subject to the Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution, which will prohibit payments or gifts to your businesses by entities owned by foreign governments.

To address any conflicts of interest and constitutional requirements, we urge you to follow the advice of the Office of Government Ethics and divest your business holdings. Consistent with the practices of past presidents since passage of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, we also urge you to establish a qualified blind trust or an equivalent in which your assets are administered by an independent party and not controlled by members of your family. Such actions are consistent with the steps called for in Senate Concurrent Resolution 56.

Whether the President of the United States makes decisions about potential trade agreements or sending troops into war, the American people need to know that their President is acting in their best interest. Divestiture of your businesses and the establishment of a qualified blind trust controlled by an independent party would provide assurances that you will put the interests of the American people first and are fully committed the success of your presidency.

Sincerely,





Edward J. Markey

Elizabeth Han

Whitome

Patty Murray

Bob Carey, Jr.

Mike F. R. A

Patricia Leahy

Dayl Getta

Chris Coons

Kirsten Gillibrand

Dianne Feinstein

Richard Blumenthal

Walter

Jack Reed

Tommy Baldwin

Tom Udall

J. A. B.

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Rebecca Stivers

Amjad Brown

Ron Wyden