

CONGRESSIONAL INTEGRITY PROJECT

November 14, 2023

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mike Johnson
Office of the Speaker
U.S. Capitol, Room H-326
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

In light of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to the U.S. this week for the APEC Leaders' Meeting, we want to draw your attention to troubling recent instances of family influence peddling and official corruption at the highest levels of the U.S. government with China which demand immediate congressional investigations and appropriate accountability.

As such, we are calling on you to direct the appropriate oversight committees of the House of Representatives to investigate the influence peddling and family corruption perpetrated by the Trump family in China while Donald Trump held the office of president and Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner worked in the White House. Republican committee chairmen have not sent any letters, requested any information, issued subpoenas, or announced any hearings on potential investigations into the Trump family's influence peddling and corruption despite ample evidence showing that Trump and his family profited from business with China while he was in office and engaged in direct talks, negotiations, and trade deals with the communist regime.

As you will see below, public reporting alone makes clear the corrupt actions of the former President and his family – corruption and influence peddling at the highest level of government and involving China, a communist dictatorship that is among our most significant global competitors. This level of corruption and family influence peddling undermines the rule of law and our democracy and simply shocks the conscience. Speaker Johnson, you not only have the power to authorize appropriate congressional investigations of Trump family influence peddling, but you have a duty to do so. The American people deserve all the facts. This can only be done by using the powers vested in Congress to conduct oversight and investigations.

Donald Trump Has Extensive Financial Ties To The CCP

While President Trump was in office, he collected [millions of dollars](#) from government-owned entities in China. Trump properties leased by the Industrial Bank of China, contributed to at least [\\$5.4 million](#) in business inflows during the Trump presidency. And the former president is clearly well aware of such multi-million dollar updates, [bragging](#) that he has “the best tenants in the world.” If this doesn't scream influence peddling, we don't know what does.

Mr. Trump's personal business history is filled with overseas financial deals too, and some have involved the Chinese state. He spent a decade unsuccessfully [pursuing projects](#) in China, operating an office there during his first run for president and forging a partnership with a major government-controlled company. And it turns out that China is [one of only three](#) foreign nations where Mr. Trump maintains a bank account.

Not only are his personal and business dealings with the Chinese government certainly shady, but they also raise legal and ethical concerns. The U.S. Constitution [prohibits](#) federal officials from accepting “any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state” without Congressional approval. Ethics experts, who have often focused on the president's hotel in Washington, D.C., [argued](#) that the president would violate the Constitution's emoluments clause from the moment he took office.

Donald And Ivanka Trump Benefited From Trademarks Approved By The Chinese Government

Not only does the former president have serious legal and ethical concerns about his business dealings, but so do his children, who held government positions and benefited financially while in office. During their time in office, the Chinese government approved multiple “Trump” family names in trademarks amid negotiations for a new trade deal. In the fall of 2018, Ivanka Trump won initial approval for [16 trademarks](#) applied for two years prior in the midst of Trump's trade war with China. The Chinese government also [approved two “Trump” trademarks](#), registered at Trump Tower in Manhattan, as negotiation efforts progressed.

Months earlier, China gave Ivanka Trump [seven new trademarks](#) across multiple businesses that she applied for after President Trump took office – all approved around the time President Trump committed to keeping a Chinese Telecommunications Company afloat, even though the company has a history of violating American limits on doing business with countries like Iran and North Korea. Ms. Trump applied for six of the trademarks in March 2017. She applied for the seventh even earlier, in May 2016.

Over a year earlier, Ivanka Trump received three trademark approvals in China the same day she and her father dined with Chinese President Xi Jinping. In April 2017, Ivanka Trump's company had [37 pending trademark](#) applications in ten countries, including China, Indonesia, and the Philippines, covering “the sale of leather goods in China, jewelry in the Philippines, and beauty products in Indonesia.” According to the [LA Times](#), “on the same day Trump and his

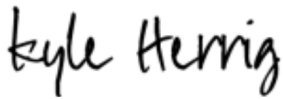
daughter dined with Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago in Florida in April 2017, China awarded her three preliminary trademark approvals for jewelry, handbags, and spa services.”

The Trump Family Operated a Web of Over 500 LLCs While In Office

Finally, during his presidency, the [Trump family](#) operated a [web of over 500 LLCs](#), which were not subject to external audits or rigorous disclosure requirements. For decades, Donald Trump operated a web of shadowy LLCs used to evade taxes and [conceal](#) loans and business interests, possibly including with China. Even during his presidency, Trump’s use of LLCs allowed him to keep much of his financial portfolio outside the public eye. As NBC News [reported](#), “[W]e don't know which foreign assets or bank accounts he owns or where they're located. We don't know how much foreign tax he has paid and to which countries. We can't verify which charities he's funding.”

We hope that you will take this information and move swiftly on investigating the widespread influence peddling and family corruption by the Trump family during Trump’s time in office. We are looking forward to the first Congressional hearing on the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Herrig". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kyle Herrig, Executive Director

Congressional Integrity Project

80 M Street SE

Washington, DC 20003