

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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May 8, 2026

The Honorable Platte B. Moring III  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Defense  
4800 Mark Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22350

Dear Mr. Moring:

I write with serious concern that President Trump and his family are using the Department of Defense (DOD) to enrich themselves at the expense of our national security. Trump's war in the Middle East is driving up gas and grocery costs for the public<sup>1</sup>—and profits for his sons' new business ventures. The Trump Administration has now repeatedly awarded lucrative DOD contracts to companies after they became affiliated with the President's sons, including last week's announcement of a contract awarded to a drone company that Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr. chose to invest in just weeks earlier.<sup>2</sup> This comes just as the Trump Administration awarded a \$24 million contract to a robotics company that employs Eric Trump as Chief Strategy Advisor.<sup>3</sup> Given the Trump family's newfound and suspiciously-timed financial gains from defense contracts, I request that you investigate the heightened risk of corruption and graft associated with such contracts.

On April 30, 2026, drone manufacturer Powerus announced its first-ever contract to supply interceptor drones to DOD. The Trump Administration awarded the contract to Powerus

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<sup>1</sup> *Why Did Gas Prices Go Up? Charts Explain as They Near \$4.30*, USA Today (Apr. 29, 2026) (online at [www.usatoday.com/story/graphics/2026/04/29/why-gas-prices-are-up-so-high/89844756007/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/graphics/2026/04/29/why-gas-prices-are-up-so-high/89844756007/)); *"You Can Never Really Catch Up": The Iran War is Exacerbating Already High Grocery Bills, and It Will Only Get Worse if the War Continues, Experts Say*, Fortune (Apr. 8, 2026) (online at <https://fortune.com/2026/04/08/iran-war-high-grocery-prices-getting-worse/>).

<sup>2</sup> See *Trump's Son Is Poised to Profit From Pentagon Drone Proposal*, New York Times (Oct. 24, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2025/10/24/us/politics/trump-drones-pentagon.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/24/us/politics/trump-drones-pentagon.html)); *Firehawk Scores \$60M Investment Led by 1789 Capital, Firm Tied to Trump Jr.*, 3D Natives (Jan. 14, 2025) (online at [www.3dnatives.com/en/firehawk-scores-60m-investment-led-by-1789-capital-firm-tied-to-trump-jr/#!](http://www.3dnatives.com/en/firehawk-scores-60m-investment-led-by-1789-capital-firm-tied-to-trump-jr/#!)); Firehawk Aerospace, *Press Release: Firehawk Aerospace Awarded 4.9M U.S. Air Force Contract to Advance Hybrid Rocket Engine Development* (Aug. 25, 2025) (online at <https://firehawkdefense.com/news/firehawk-aerospace-awarded-49m-us-air-force-contract-advance-hybrid-rocket-engine-development/>); *Trump Family-Backed Drone Firm Signs Weapons Deal with US*, Bloomberg (Apr. 30, 2026) (online at [www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-04-30/trump-family-backed-drone-firm-signs-weapons-deal-with-us](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-04-30/trump-family-backed-drone-firm-signs-weapons-deal-with-us)).

<sup>3</sup> *Eric Trump-Backed Robot Startup Lands \$24M Pentagon Deal to Compete with China*, Fox Business (Apr. 23, 2026) (online at [www.foxbusiness.com/media/eric-trump-backed-robot-startup-lands-24m-pentagon-deal-compete-china](http://www.foxbusiness.com/media/eric-trump-backed-robot-startup-lands-24m-pentagon-deal-compete-china)).

following a March 2026 announcement that Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr. had decided to back the company. The Trump sons' investment decision came as Powerus pitched its products to countries in the Middle East to protect against threats from their father's illegal war with Iran.<sup>4</sup>

Just one week earlier, on April 23, 2026, Eric Trump had appeared on Fox Business to tout a separate \$24 million DOD contract that the Trump Administration awarded his employer, Foundation Future Industries.<sup>5</sup> Mr. Trump serves in his position with the company despite self-admittedly "coming from hospitality" with limited experience in defense or robotics before the 2024 Presidential election.<sup>6</sup>

Since the start of President Trump's second term, his adult children have started conspicuously involving themselves in a variety of defense related contracting firms with specialties including rockets, robots, martial arts, and drones. These new engagements come despite little history of the Trump family working in those sectors prior to January 2025. Many of these firms have then received grants, loans, and contracts following Trump family involvement, raising questions about the ability of these firms to fulfil their obligations.<sup>7</sup>

Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr.'s purchases, consultancies, and advisory roles create unprecedented intertwining of President Trump's personal financial interests with U.S. policy and national security. Each new venture opens new opportunities to direct DOD funds to the first family's pockets, and the Trump Administration appears to be taking advantage of those opportunities. Such actions raise concerns that DOD is rewarding companies with contracts for recruiting a Trump family member into their ownership group or directly onto their payroll.<sup>8</sup> Such companies have amassed over \$725 million in loans, grants, and awards since President Trump took office.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> *Firm Backed by Trump Sons Tries to Sell Drone Interceptors to Gulf States Being Attacked by Iran*, The Guardian (Apr. 2, 2026) (online at [www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/apr/02/eric-trump-drones-gulf-states-iran](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/apr/02/eric-trump-drones-gulf-states-iran)).

<sup>5</sup> *Eric Trump-Backed Robot Startup Lands \$24M Pentagon Deal to Compete with China*, Fox Business (Apr. 23, 2026) (online at [www.foxbusiness.com/media/eric-trump-backed-robot-startup-lands-24m-pentagon-deal-compete-china](http://www.foxbusiness.com/media/eric-trump-backed-robot-startup-lands-24m-pentagon-deal-compete-china)).

<sup>6</sup> Fox Business, *Video: US Ramps Up Humanoid Robotics as China Threat Grows in AI Race* (Apr. 23, 2026) (online at [www.foxbusiness.com/shows/mornings-with-maria](http://www.foxbusiness.com/shows/mornings-with-maria)).

<sup>7</sup> See *Trump's Son Is Poised to Profit From Pentagon Drone Proposal*, New York Times, (Oct. 24, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2025/10/24/us/politics/trump-drones-pentagon.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/24/us/politics/trump-drones-pentagon.html)); *Trump Bros Back a Drone Company as the Pentagon Prepares to Spend Billions*, Gizmodo (Mar. 9, 2026) (online at <https://gizmodo.com/trump-bros-back-a-drone-company-as-the-pentagon-prepares-to-spend-billions-2000731374>); Firehawk Aerospace, *Press Release: Firehawk Aerospace Awarded 4.9M U.S. Air Force Contract to Advance Hybrid Rocket Engine Development* (Aug. 25, 2025) (online at <https://firehawkdefense.com/news/firehawk-aerospace-awarded-49m-us-air-force-contract-advance-hybrid-rocket-engine-development/>); *Eric Trump-Backed Robot Startup Lands \$24M Pentagon Deal to Compete with China*, Fox Business (Apr. 23, 2026) (online at [www.foxbusiness.com/media/eric-trump-backed-robot-startup-lands-24m-pentagon-deal-compete-china](http://www.foxbusiness.com/media/eric-trump-backed-robot-startup-lands-24m-pentagon-deal-compete-china)).

<sup>8</sup> *Trump Wages War, His Sons Get Payoff Through Savvy Investments*, Responsible Statecraft (Mar. 17, 2026) (online at <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/trump-sons-iran/>).

<sup>9</sup> *Eric Trump-Backed Robot Startup Lands \$24M Pentagon Deal to Compete with China*, Fox Business (Apr. 23, 2026) (online at [www.foxbusiness.com/media/eric-trump-backed-robot-startup-lands-24m-pentagon-deal-compete-china](http://www.foxbusiness.com/media/eric-trump-backed-robot-startup-lands-24m-pentagon-deal-compete-china)); Firehawk Aerospace, *Press Release: Firehawk Aerospace Awarded 4.9M U.S. Air Force Contract to Advance Hybrid Rocket Engine Development* (Aug. 25, 2025) (online at <https://firehawkdefense.com/news/firehawk-aerospace-awarded-49m-us-air-force-contract-advance-hybrid-rocket->

Not only do the American people have to worry about Trump Administration officials exerting influence on which companies win contracts, but the timing of the Trump family's investment announcements and subsequent DOD contracts raise greater suspicions about possible unethical or unlawful access to sensitive or classified information. Donald Trump Jr. has publicly stated that he and his investment firm, 1789 Capital, "understand what the administration wants to do, because we helped craft some of that messaging."<sup>10</sup> This statement all but openly admits that the Trump family is using insider information for its own business interests.

In a previous response to Congress, DOD indicated that it controls conflicts of interest via "the diligent collection and review of financial disclosure forms for employees."<sup>11</sup> This does not prevent Trump Administration officials from directing taxpayer dollars with the purpose of enriching the Trump family, nor does it prevent the Trump family from profiting from insider knowledge of future Pentagon plans.<sup>12</sup> Looking at DOD employees' personal finances is simply insufficient to catch the wide range of corrupt practices at play in this Administration.

During his first term, President Trump sought to enrich himself through accepting payments from foreign governments via his hotels and properties.<sup>13</sup> During his second term, the Trump family has opened every faucet available to enrich themselves. The Trump family has earned billions in profits in digital assets, financial services, hospitality, merchandise, and media.<sup>14</sup> Oversight Democrats calculate that the Trump family has made over \$2.45 billion in profits from his digital gift alone, with more than \$630 million coming from foreign interests.<sup>15</sup>

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engine-development/); Unusual Machines, *Press Release: Unusual Machines Secures \$12.8 Million Defense Order Supplying Strategic Logix's RRSI Drone Systems* (Sept. 30, 2025) (online at [www.unusualmachines.com/press-release/?i=158122](http://www.unusualmachines.com/press-release/?i=158122)); PsiQuantum, *Press Release: PsiQuantum Announces \$10.8M Contract with Air Force Research Laboratory to Deliver Novel Quantum Chip Capabilities to the U.S. Air Force* (Apr. 15, 2025) (online at [www.psiquantum.com/news-import/psiquantum-afri-omega](http://www.psiquantum.com/news-import/psiquantum-afri-omega)); *Vulcan Elements wins Pentagon deals as \$65M round Fuels Expansion*, *Defense News* (Aug. 25, 2025) (online at [www.defensenews.com/industry/2025/08/25/vulcan-elements-wins-pentagon-deals-as-65m-round-fuels-expansion/](http://www.defensenews.com/industry/2025/08/25/vulcan-elements-wins-pentagon-deals-as-65m-round-fuels-expansion/)); Cerebras, *Press Release: Cerebras Systems, Ranovus Win \$45 million US Military Deal to Speed Up Chip Connections* (Apr. 1, 2025) (online at [www.cerebras.ai/news/cerebras-systems-ranovus-win-usd45-million-us-military-deal-to-speed-up-chip-connections](http://www.cerebras.ai/news/cerebras-systems-ranovus-win-usd45-million-us-military-deal-to-speed-up-chip-connections)); *Donald Trump Jr-Backed Start-up Scores \$600mn US Federal Government Deal*, *Financial Times* (Dec. 3, 2025) (online at [www.ft.com/content/952f37ba-78b4-42a4-8d1b-2258de65f2c0?syn-25a6b1a6=1](http://www.ft.com/content/952f37ba-78b4-42a4-8d1b-2258de65f2c0?syn-25a6b1a6=1)).

<sup>10</sup> *Donald Trump Jr. Pitches "Patriotic Capitalism" at Saudi Summit*, *New York Times* (Oct. 9, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2025/10/29/business/donald-trump-jr-1789-capital-saudi-arabia.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/29/business/donald-trump-jr-1789-capital-saudi-arabia.html)).

<sup>11</sup> Letter from Senators Elizabeth Warren and Richard Blumenthal to Secretary Pete Hegseth, Department of Defense (Mar. 24, 2026) (online at [www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/follow-up\\_letter\\_from\\_senators\\_warren\\_blumenthal\\_to\\_secretary\\_hegseth\\_on\\_trump\\_jrconflictsofinterest.pdf](http://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/follow-up_letter_from_senators_warren_blumenthal_to_secretary_hegseth_on_trump_jrconflictsofinterest.pdf)).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> Democratic Staff Report, Committee on Oversight and Accountability, *White House for Sale: How Princes, Prime Ministers, and Premiers Paid Off President Trump*, at p. 9 (Jan. 4, 2024) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-01-04.COA%20DEMS%20-%20Mazars%20Report.pdf>).

<sup>14</sup> *How Much Money President Trump and His Family Have Made*, *NPR* (Jan. 14, 2026) (online at [www.npr.org/2026/01/14/nx-s1-5677024/trump-profits-merch-hotels-crypto](http://www.npr.org/2026/01/14/nx-s1-5677024/trump-profits-merch-hotels-crypto)).

<sup>15</sup> Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Democrats, *Trump Family Grift Wealth Tracker* (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/trump-family-corruption-tracker>) (accessed Apr. 28, 2026).

Given this pattern of using the presidency for personal grift, the Trump family's ventures into defense contracting are all the more alarming.

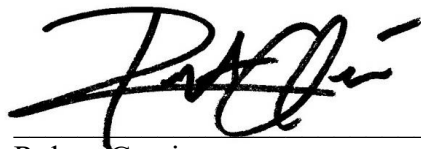
The American people deserve to know that DOD awards contracts of taxpayer dollars ethically and prioritizes the best solutions for our national security—not who can pay the Trump family more. I request that you open an investigation into DOD contracting practices that affect the Trump family's personal financial interests, including but not limited to the following questions:

1. Are current safeguards and processes sufficient to prevent political appointees from directing DOD contracts to companies in which the President or his family have personal financial interests?
2. What controls does DOD maintain to ensure that contracting officers, political appointees, and policy employees determining acquisition, loan, and defense strategy and decisions do not:
  - a. disclose any contracting, acquisition, or planning information to the personal financial benefit of the President or his family; or
  - b. weigh the personal financial interests of the President or his family in making decisions related to a contract, loan, or acquisition?
3. What contracts or agreements does DOD currently have with companies in which President Donald Trump, Donald Trump Jr., Eric Trump, Jared Kushner, Ivanka Trump, Tiffany Trump, or Barron Trump have a personal financial interest? Such companies include but may not be limited to:
  - a. Anduril Industries;
  - b. Cerebras Systems;
  - c. PsiQuantum;
  - d. Unusual Machines;
  - e. Axiom Space;
  - f. Firehawk Aerospace;
  - g. Vulcan Elements;
  - h. ReElement Technologies;
  - i. Intech Industries;
  - j. Mixed Martial Arts Group Ltd.;

- k. Foundation Future Industries; and
  - l. Powerus.
4. For each contract or agreement identified in #4, did DOD clearly and diligently follow all laws, regulations, and policies to ensure the ethics and integrity of DOD procurement and loan awards?
  5. Has the award process for each contract or agreement identified in #4 been evaluated for potential conflicts of interest that may conflict with the public interest?

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. The Committee also has legislative jurisdiction over the “economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities, including federal procurement” under House Rule X. Your investigation would provide essential information to assist in evaluating and ensuring the integrity of federal procurement practices. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Garcia', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman