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July 16, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

Attached please find correspondence to the Secretary of Commerce from the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), regarding potential criminal ethical violations related to Secretary Ross' personal financial activity and his failure to properly report and divest his financial holdings. According to OGE Acting Director David J. Apol, Secretary Ross "opened new short positions on various holdings that [he] committed to divesting in [his] Ethics Agreement, in contravention of that agreement." OGE also noted that Secretary Ross failed to meet divestiture deadlines as required by his ethics agreement, and that he misrepresented in his Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance that he had met those requirements. OGE noted that Secretary Ross' "failure to divest created the potential for a serious criminal violation."

On June 21, 2018, I wrote to Secretary Ross with a series of questions to provide him the opportunity to clarify the intent behind his potentially illegal financial activity. His June 29, 2018 response did not adequately justify the activity in question. In fact, his representation to me that "he has "sought to comply scrupulously with federal ethics laws" is clearly undermined by OGE's assertion that Secretary Ross "neglected to seek advice from the Designated Agency Ethics Official (DAEO) of [his] Department or other ethics staff prior to" engaging in the financial activity in question. Also attached is a copy of my letter to Secretary Ross and his response.

Based on my correspondence with Secretary Ross, and the grave concerns highlighted by OGE Acting Director David J. Apol, I am requesting that the Department of Justice examine Secretary Ross's financial transactions and disclosure reports for potential criminal violations of 18 U.S.C. § 208.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
Ranking Member