

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 2024

Mr. Howard Lutnick
Ms. Linda McMahon
Co-Chairs, Trump-Vance Transition
Mar-a-Lago Club
1100 South Ocean Boulevard
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Dear Chair McMahon and Chair Lutnick,

We are writing to request information concerning troubling allegations of potential quid-pro-quo agreements within President-elect Trump's transition team. These reports raise pressing concerns about potential payments made in exchange for preferential treatment in the President-elect's cabinet-level nominations.

Allegations of this nature require immediate inquiry by the Senate. The Senate has a constitutional duty to provide advice and consent on the President-elect's intended nominees, and fulfilling these duties requires full and robust information to ensure that the transition process has not been influenced by inappropriate payments for political favors.

According to reports, Boris Epshteyn, a longtime advisor and counsel to President-elect Trump, has in several instances requested personal payment in exchange for political favors or promoting certain candidates for nomination to cabinet-level positions.¹ For example, Mr. Epshteyn is alleged to have sought payments totaling \$30,000-\$40,000 a month from Scott Bessent, the presumptive nominee for Secretary of the Treasury, to promote Mr. Bessent to President-elect Trump as a potential nominee.²

In addition, former Missouri Governor Eric Greitens reportedly stated that Mr. Epshteyn implied that Mr. Greitens should send him payment in exchange for Mr. Epshteyn advocating to President-elect Trump that Mr. Greitens be appointed Secretary of the U.S. Navy.³

These alleged payments for political services between Mr. Epshteyn and those seeking political positions or favors do not appear to be isolated events. Reports also indicate Mr. Epshteyn was paid for "consultation" from politicians seeking office, including Don Bolduc, a primary election candidate for U.S. Senate in New Hampshire, who reportedly paid Mr. Epshteyn \$100,000 in

¹ Maggie Haberman and Jonathon Swift, *Top Trump Aide Accused of Asking for Money to 'Promote' Potential Appointees*, New York Times (Nov. 25, 2024) [Top Trump Aide Accused of Asking for Money to 'Promote' Potential Appointees - The New York Times](#).

² *Id.*

³ Katherine Faulders and Jonathon Karl, *Trump has advisers conduct internal probe of alleged impropriety by legal adviser Boris Epshteyn*, ABC News (Nov. 25, 2024) [Trump has advisers conduct internal probe of alleged impropriety by legal adviser Boris Epshteyn: Sources - ABC News](#).

2022 in order for Mr. Epshteyn to urge Mr. Trump to refrain from publicly endorsing another candidate.⁴

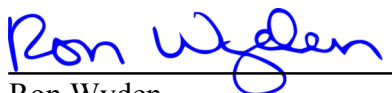
In another instance, Carl Paladino, a Republican who ran to represent New York's 23rd Congressional District in 2022, reportedly claims to have paid Mr. Epshteyn \$20,000 a month in order for Mr. Epshteyn to secure Mr. Trump's endorsement in that campaign.⁵

This pattern of allegations, which was reportedly the subject of an internal investigation by the Trump transition team, raises serious concerns about the integrity of the transition process and whether and to what extent it has been influenced by inappropriate payments for political favors. In light of these allegations, we ask that you provide the following information:

1. A summary of any payments made by any presumptive or potential nominee for a presidential appointment to Mr. Epshteyn, his agent or associate, or any entity owned or controlled by Epshteyn or his agents or associates.
2. Any documents produced by the transition team's reported investigation into payments made to Mr. Epshteyn, including, but not limited to, any final reports or memoranda, or documents produced or collected to support any such investigation.

Please submit all documents or other records relative to this matter to our offices by January 2nd, 2025. Your assistance in this investigation will ensure that the members of the Senate have the robust understanding of the incoming Administration and candidates that is necessary for the Senate to fulfill its constitutional duty to provide advice and consent on the president's nominees.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Chairman, Committee on
Finance



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator
Chair, Senate Committee on
the Judiciary

⁴ Daniel Klaidman and Graham Kates, *Trump transition aide Boris Epshteyn sparking internal strife over appointments*, CBS News (Nov. 25, 2024) [Trump transition aide Boris Epshteyn sparking internal strife over appointments - CBS News](#).

⁵ *Top Trump Aide Accused of Asking for Money to 'Promote' Potential Appointees*, New York Times (Nov. 25, 2024).

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown
Chairman
Senate Committee on
Banking, Housing, and Urban
Affairs