United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 19, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Brian Ballard
President
Ballard Partners
601 Thirteenth Street NW, Suite #250S
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Ballard:

Since July 2025, President Trump has solicited more than $300 million in private donations, including from numerous corporations and individuals with significant interests before the federal government, to build what has been presented to donors and the public as "the President Donald J. Trump Ballroom."[1] Lobbyists such as yourself played an instrumental role in raising this large sum of money in the past year.[2] This pipeline of corporate and other donations raises significant concerns of favoritism and potential corruption, including the possibility that quid pro quo transactions tainted official government action. Many questions remain about the fundraising activities connected to the White House Ballroom, including how donors were identified and solicited, what promises have been made in exchange for these substantial contributions, and the extent of any solicitations or pledges that have not yet been disclosed.[3] This information is necessary as the incoming Congress considers the efficacy of federal ethics and anti-corruption laws pertaining to the Executive Branch.

For well over a year, we have been conducting an inquiry into President Trump's solicitation of these donations from corporate America. We previously wrote to you requesting documents and information regarding your fundraising efforts for the President's ballroom,

[1] Jonathan O'Connell, Sarah Blaskey and Aaron Schaffer, *Secret documents reveal donors behind $330 million for Trump's ballroom*, WASHINGTON POST (Oct. 15, 2026) https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2026/10/15/secret-documents-reveal-donors-behind-330-million-trumps-ballroom/.

[2] Arden Farhi and Jennifer Jacobs, *Majority of corporate Trump ballroom donors represented by 3 lobbying firms, watchdog says*, CBS NEWS (Nov. 19, 2025) https://www.cbsnews.com/news/corporate-trump-ballroom-donors-represented-by-3-lobbying-firms/.

[3] Victoria Bisset, *Here are the donors contributing to Trump's White House ballroom*, WASH. POST (Oct. 24, 2025), https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/10/24/trump-white-house-ballroom-donors-list/.

however, you have failed to respond. Given this failure, we are writing to renew our previous requests for records and information and to reiterate our expectation that you promptly comply.

To assist our offices in our inquiry into the solicitation of donations for the White House Ballroom, please produce all documents, records,[4] and communications[5] related to contributions to the Trump Ballroom, and your efforts to solicit such donations, and provide the following information:

1. A comprehensive description of your role in the effort to raise funds for the Trump Ballroom, including but not limited to:
    a. When were you first asked to assist with efforts to raise funds for the Trump Ballroom?
    b. Who requested your participation in this effort? Please identify everyone you spoke with about the project, including but not limited to all White House personnel or members of the Trump family.
    c. What was the target amount of funds that you were originally asked to raise?
    d. Has the target fundraising goal changed at any point in time? If so, to what amount and why?
    e. What guidance or instructions were provided to you regarding which donors or type of donors to solicit funds from?
    f. Were you told not to solicit funds from any individual donors or type of donor (e.g., foreign countries or entities)?
    g. What were you told to offer donors in exchange for a contribution to the Trump Ballroom? Did this vary based on the identity of the donor or the amount of the contribution? If so, how?
    h. Were donors offered the opportunity to be named in an acknowledgement wall or other similar fashion within the Trump Ballroom?
    i. Please produce all materials that you were provided or otherwise used to solicit donations for the Trump Ballroom.

2. How are you and/or your organization being compensated for your role in the Trump Ballroom fundraising project?
    a. Will you receive a fixed fee or are you receiving a percentage of funds raised?
    b. Are you eligible for incentive payments for achieving target fundraising goals?

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[4] For purposes of this request, "records" include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), direct messages, chats, calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

[5] For purposes of this request, "communications" include any records, as defined above, transmitted in any way between two or more individuals or entities.

c. What is the total amount of compensation you expect to receive for raising funds for the White House Ballrooms?
d. Please produce any and all agreements you have entered into reflecting the scope of your fundraising efforts and/or any compensation you or your company will receive in exchange.

3. Please provide a complete list of individuals or entities that you have solicited for donations or pledges to fund construction of the Trump Ballroom, as well as the following information about each solicited pledge or contribution
    a. The total amount of each donation or pledge solicited;
    b. The date of each solicitation;
    c. Whether the donation or pledge was made and, if so, in what amount;
    d. The date the donation or pledge was made or offered;
    e. Whether the donation or pledge was intended to be anonymous;
    f. Was anything offered in exchange for the donation or pledge, including but not limited to access to government officials, attendance at White House or other events, public or private recognition of the donation, or anything else, regardless of inherent monetary value?
    g. Will the donation be made to the Trust for the National Mall or to another entity (including the name of any other entity receiving the donation)?

We expect you to produce responsive records and information by no later than December 18, 2026, with additional records to follow on a schedule agreed upon in advance with staff. Any questions about the scope of the enclosed requests should be relayed to staff well in advance of the deadline.

Please contact staff by November 23, 2026 to confirm receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations