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## United States Senate

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April 3, 2017

Mr. Donald McGahn  
White House Counsel  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. McGahn:

I write to encourage President Trump to file a Form 278 with the Office of Government Ethics by May 15 of this year. This type of financial disclosure will provide much needed transparency to the American people and would be consistent with the actions of previous Presidents.

As you know, under the Ethics in Government Act, the President is required to file an annual public financial disclosure form beginning in 2018. Presidents Obama and Bush, however, each filed a public disclosure on May 15 of their first year in office. Presidential financial disclosures provide vital information to the public. Given President Trump's extensive investments, business contracts and arrangements, and financial assets, this transparency is especially important. President Trump should follow the precedent of previous Presidents, recognize the importance of transparency, and file a public financial disclosure by May 15th.

A January 11, 2017 White Paper from the President's lawyers states:

In summary, President-Elect Trump is taking these extraordinary steps to ensure that the Office of the Presidency is isolated from The Trump Organization. President-Elect Trump promised the American People that he would Make America Great Again: he takes these steps to assure the American People that his sole focus is on that pledge—and that he intends only for the American People to benefit from his term as President.

At a bare minimum, to fulfill the President's pledge in the White Paper, he should provide the most basic transparency by completing and filing a financial disclosure Form 278 in 2017.

The public has a right to know whether conflicts are influencing the President's decision making process. By filing a Form 278 and making more disclosures, the American people will have at least some information to gauge for themselves whether the President "intends only for the American People to benefit from his term as President." Otherwise, the American people are left taking his word for it.

I look forward to your response by April 24, 2017. I would also be happy to discuss this further in person with either you or your staff. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Bennet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael F. Bennet  
U.S. Senator