

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 21, 2026

Ms. Susan Wiles
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Wiles:

In light of the President's stated objective of controlling Venezuela's oil resources and the Administration's initial steps to do so, it is imperative that senior Administration officials immediately disclose any financial interests in companies involved in the extraction, processing, or sale of Venezuelan oil, as well as any private contractors that may be involved in security, logistics or other services in support of the U.S. military operation. The Administration must also apply strict guardrails and transparency measures to prevent profiteering moving forward.

On January 6, 2026, the President announced that the United States will be taking over the sales of Venezuelan oil.¹ The same day, President Trump, Vice President Vance, National Security Advisor and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and several Cabinet officials met with oil and gas executives at the White House to press their companies to invest in Venezuelan infrastructure for the purpose of extracting and selling the country's oil resources.²

In particular, it is incumbent on the Administration to be fully transparent with the American people and disclose immediately any and all financial ties, personal investments, or side arrangements Administration officials may have in or with companies or other entities with existing or anticipated business involving Venezuelan oil, including but not limited to companies that attended the January 6, 2026, meeting at the White House: Chevron, ExxonMobil, Conoco Phillips, Continental Resources, Halliburton, HKN Inc., Valero, Marathon, Shell, Trafigura, Vitol Americas, Repsol, Eni, Aspect Holdings, Tallgrass, Raisa Energy, and Hilcorp.³ Similarly, given reports that the Department of Defense last week put out a Request for Information from private contractors "about their ability to support possible U.S. military operations in Venezuela," Administration officials must disclose any financial connections to these

¹ Trump, Donald J. *Truth Social*, 9 Jan. 2026,
<https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115850817778602689>

² "President Trump Participates in a Meeting with Oil and Gas Executives." *The White House*, 9 Jan. 2026,
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/videos/president-trump-participates-in-a-meeting-with-oil-and-gas-executives/>

³ Treene, Alayna. "Post." *X*, 11 Jan. 2026,
<https://x.com/alaynatreene/status/2009609231750611215>

organizations.⁴ These immediate disclosures must also be reflected, as appropriate, in the annual and transaction reports required under the *Ethics in Government Act*.⁵

Additionally, Congress and the American people deserve full transparency regarding any financial commitments, promises, deals, or other arrangements related to Venezuela that could favor donors to the President's campaign and political operation, presidential transition, inaugural fund, ballroom project, or Presidential library given growing indication and concern that several may stand to benefit financially from U.S. Government direct or *de facto* control of oil resources in Venezuela. For example, in November 2025, the private investment firm of Paul Singer, a major contributor to the President's campaign, acquired Citgo, the US-based subsidiary of Venezuela's state-run oil company. Citgo's refinery facilities were designed to process Venezuela's heavy sour crude. According to reporting, other investment firms are involved in these dealings, including Apollo Global Management, Oaktree Capital Management, and Silver Point Capital.^{6 7} Further, it has been reported that the first sale of U.S.-controlled Venezuelan oil was awarded to Vitol, whose representative at the January 6 meeting donated at least \$6 million to political action committees supporting President Trump's campaign.⁸

Given the urgency of the matter and the enormous risk of profiteering and corruption, the Administration has a heightened obligation, beyond existing financial disclosure requirements, to clarify for Congress and the American public whether and to what extent the financial ties described above exist and the concrete measures implemented, if any, to prevent the personal financial enrichment of the President and Administration officials. Such financial ties and any corrupt dealings or profiteering, moreover, will be subject to ongoing scrutiny and may lead to future accountability measures.

Public trust demands clarity and transparency with Congress and the American people, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

⁴ CNN. "Private guns, public oil: Trump's Venezuela plans start taking shape." *CNN*, 15 Jan. 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/15/politics/trump-private-contractors-venezuela-oil>

⁵ *United States Code*. Title 5, § 131.

⁶ Helman, Christopher. "These Wall Street Billionaires Are Set to Profit from Trump's Venezuela Incursion." *Forbes*, 8 Jan. 2026, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/christopherhelman/2026/01/08/these-wall-street-billionaires-are-set-to-profit-from-trumps-venezuela-incursion/>

⁷ "Trump, Venezuela, Oil, and Paul Singer's Hedge Fund." *Mother Jones*, Jan. 2026, <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/01/trump-venezuela-oil-maduro-billionaire-paul-singer-citgo-elliott-management-hedge-fund/>

⁸ Moore, Malcolm. "Trump's First Venezuela Oil Sale Deal Goes to Megadonor's Company." *Financial Times*, 15 Jan. 2026, <https://www.ft.com/content/da74c248-fb36-4ff1-8fb2-d2dd1e00fde8>



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



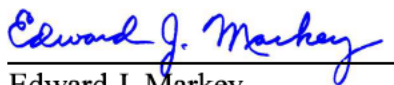
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



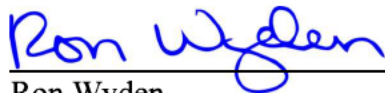
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



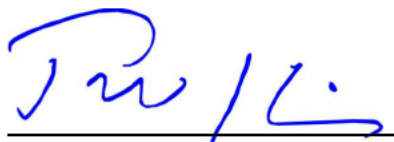
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator