

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Eric Schneiderman
New York State Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Attorney General Schneiderman,

I am forwarding to you a copy of [a letter that was sent on March 8, 2017 to Preet Bharara](#), then U.S Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

The letter, sent by Democracy 21, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) and the Campaign Legal Center, set forth facts on the public record that present a powerful case that The Trump Organization and related Trump business entities have received payments or other financial benefits from foreign governments that benefit President Donald Trump, as owner of the businesses, and that do not comply with the Constitution's "Foreign Emoluments Clause."

The letter called on the U.S Attorney's office to conduct an investigation of these matters and to take whatever steps maybe necessary to prevent The Trump Organization and related Trump businesses from serving as a vehicle, or conduit, for foreign governments to provide payments or other financial benefits that benefit President Trump in violation of the Emoluments Clause.

As you know, U.S Attorney Bharara was fired by Attorney General Jeff Sessions on March 11, 2017.

The Trump Organization and related business entities reside in New York. As such, they fall under your jurisdiction to enforce the laws of New York State.

If, as we believe the public record establishes, The Trump Organization and related business entities are serving to pass on payments and benefits from foreign governments to President Trump that violate the Constitution, then The Trump Organizations and related Trump business enterprises are conducting unlawful business operations in the state of New York.

These activities are no different than a bank engaging in illegal practices in New York in which illegal funds are passed through the bank to third party recipients.

We believe that under these circumstances, including Mr. Bharara's firing, it is appropriate for you to conduct an investigation of this matter and to take whatever steps may be necessary to stop The Trump Organization and related Trump businesses from being used to pass emoluments from foreign governments to President Trump in violation of the Constitution's Emoluments Clause.

Since we sent the enclosed March 8 letter to Mr. Bharara, furthermore, published reports state that China has granted a new valuable financial benefit to President Trump's businesses in the form of "preliminary approval for at least 38 Trump trademarks for businesses ranging from hotels and spas to animal training and weather forecasting. . . ." ¹

You are known for your willingness to follow the facts wherever they may lead. We urge you to take this approach in conducting the investigation we are requesting.

We call on you as New York Attorney General to expeditiously pursue an investigation of The Trump Organization and related Trump business entities and to take whatever steps are necessary to stop these entities from receiving and passing on to President Trump emoluments provided by foreign governments in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Respectfully,

/s/ Fred Wertheimer

Fred Wertheimer
President
Democracy 21

Copy to: Howard McMaster

¹ S. Denyer, "China grants Trump 38 trademarks, reopening debate about conflicts of interest," *The Washington Post* (March 9, 2017).