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Walter M. Shaub, Jr
Director
Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Director Shaub,

Thank you for your service. I write today to call your attention to the recent actions of a member of the White House senior staff, Ms. Kellyanne Conway.

In an appearance this morning on the Fox News program "Fox & Friends," Ms. Conway made the following remarks regarding the Ivanka Trump fashion line: "Go buy Ivanka's stuff, is what I would tell you. It's a wonderful line. I own some of it. I fully – I'm going to just, I'm going to give a free commercial here: Go buy it today, everybody. You can find it online."

Ms. Conway's endorsement of any privately owned business – let alone a company owned by an immediate family member of her employer, the President of the United States – is a clear violation of federal ethics law. The regulations in this area are quite clear. Title 5, Section § 2635.702 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations states:

"An employee shall not use his public office for his own private gain, for the endorsement of any product, service or enterprise, or for the private gain of friends, relatives, or persons with whom the employee is affiliated in a nongovernmental capacity, including nonprofit organizations of which the employee is an officer or member, and persons with whom the employee has or seeks employment or business relations."

Ms. Conway's comments are a clear violation of the letter and spirit of the law. Given President Trump's apparent view that federal ethics rules do not apply to his office, I respectfully request the Office of Government Ethics to investigate this incident. Pursuant to Title 5, Section § 2638.503 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, I urge you to immediately notify the White House of the violation of government ethics law in order to prompt corrective action.

Addressing this early and egregious violation is critical to ensuring the Administration's future adherence to the law.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress