

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 14, 2018

Ambassador Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States
The Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Ambassador Khalid bin Salman:

On December 5, 2018 the *Washington Post* published an investigation that chronicled a scheme in which the Saudi government allegedly reserved nearly 500 rooms at Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. to house veterans who were sent to lobby Congress against a bill the Saudi government opposed. These veterans were reportedly unaware the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sponsored these trips, and were under the impression that other veterans had organically organized them.

As Members of Congress who are also veterans, we are deeply concerned the Saudi government allegedly not only deceived our nation's veterans, but did so to curry favor with Donald Trump by staying at his hotel – from which he profits because he has refused to divest his business interests. This episode raises legal and moral questions about the abuse of the U.S. Constitution's Emoluments Clause and the abuse of our veterans.

For greater clarity on this disturbing investigation, we respectfully request a response to the questions below:

1. Did the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) sponsor trips to Washington, D.C. during which veterans were housed at Trump International Hotel and given lavish dinners and drinks?
2. If so, why did KSA select veterans specifically for these trips?
3. If not, why does the *Post* report that Congressional staff with whom veterans met said, "Are you the veterans that are getting bribed?"
4. Does KSA dispute the validity of the U.S. Department of Justice FARA filings referenced in the *Washington Post* article?
5. Why did the lobbyists who helped organize these veteran fly-ins suddenly switch venues to the Trump Hotel in Washington, D.C. *after the 2016 election*, after previously housing veterans in Northern Virginia?
6. Does the Royal Embassy have any evidence that shows *all* veterans involved were told that KSA funded these lobbying trips?
7. The article claims that veterans were given "a few fact sheets" about The Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) and their missions. What specific materials were disseminated to veterans, and will you provide those materials to Congress?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



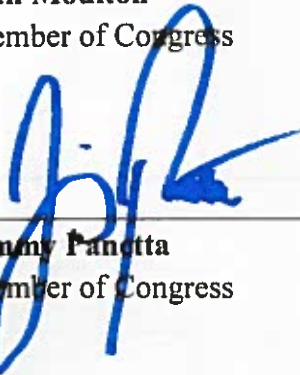
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
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Jimmy Panetta
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Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress