

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2018

The Honorable Steve A. Linick
Inspector General
U.S. Department of State
1700 North Moore Street
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Inspector General Linick:

We write today to request that the Office of the Inspector General conduct an audit of expenses incurred by the State Department in relation to President Trump's visit to the Trump Turnberry, a luxury golf resort in Scotland, from July 14-15, 2018.

During his stay at Trump Turnberry, the President made no public appearances and played two rounds of golf.¹ Reporting thus far suggests that this cost American taxpayers over \$68,000 for hotel rooms, phone lines, rental cars, and a "VIP visit".² The trip's total price tag is reportedly set to increase further, up to \$1.2 million, with payments to Trump Turnberry potentially exceeding \$100,000, when costs are assigned to two remaining open contracts that the U.S. government owes SLC Turnberry Limited, the company that owns the resort.³

This is not the first time that President Trump and his family's choice of travel accommodations have resulted in exceptionally high costs. During his first year in office, his frequent weekend trips to his golf resorts in Mar-a-Lago, Florida; Bedminster, New Jersey, and Potomac Falls, Virginia led to a severe depletion of the Secret Service's budget.⁴ The agency's bills included at least \$137,000 spent renting golf carts at golf courses owned by President Trump.⁵ Recent reporting also found that in one month alone, the Secret Service spent nearly

¹ Martyn McLaughlin, *Donald Trump's Turnberry Firm Paid £50,000 by US Government for Weekend Visit*, THE SCOTSMAN (July 17, 2018) (online at www.scotsman.com/news/politics/donald-trump-s-turnberry-firm-paid-50-000-by-us-government-for-weekend-visit-1-4770069).

² Alix Langone, *U.S. Government Spent Over \$60,000 at President Trump's Turnberry Resort During His Visit*, MONEY (July 18, 2018) (online at <http://time.com/money/5341475/us-government-60000-trump-turnberry-resort>).

³ Chris Spargo, *President Trump's Golf Trip to Scotland Cost Taxpayers Over \$1.2 Million...*, DAILY MAIL (July 17, 2018) (online at www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5963831/President-Trumps-golf-trip-Scotland-cost-taxpayers-1-2MILLION-Trump-organization-38k.html).

⁴ Kevin Johnson, *Secret Service Depletes Funds to Pay Agents Because of Trump's Frequent Travel, Large Family*, USA TODAY (Aug. 21, 2017) (online at www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/08/21/secret-service-cant-pay-agents-because-trumps-frequent-travel-large-family/529075001).

⁵ Julia Fair, *Secret Service Spent \$137K on Golf Carts to Protect Trump at New Jersey, Florida Clubs*, USA TODAY (Oct. 5, 2017) (online at www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2017/10/05/secret-service-spent-137-k-golf-carts-protect-trump-new-jersey-florida-clubs/736618001).

\$250,000 to protect the president's adult sons, Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr., as they travelled to Dubai to open a Trump-brand golf club and other foreign destinations.⁶

There is no question that the State Department must help arrange international travel for the President and his family, regardless of where – and how – they choose to spend their time. In order to fulfill our responsibility to ensure the sound stewardship of taxpayer dollars and better understand any instances of waste, fraud, or abuse associated with the President's stay in Scotland, we request that you conduct an investigation that answers the following questions:

1. How much did the State Department spend to arrange for, staff, and otherwise facilitate the President and his family during their stay at the Trump Turnberry?
2. How much did Trump Turnberry gain in profits from the State Department's spending for the President and his family's visit?
3. How much in total will the State Department pay the Trump Turnberry?
4. What was the rate that the State Department paid for hotel rooms at the Trump Turnberry?
5. Did the State Department compare the prices at the Trump Turnberry with prices at any other hotels in the area? If not, why not?
6. What was the nature and purpose of the April 2018 "VIP visit" to the Trump Turnberry?
7. How much did the State Department spend on meals and other incidental costs at Trump Turnberry?
8. What other costs did the State Department incur related to the president's visit to Trump Turnberry?

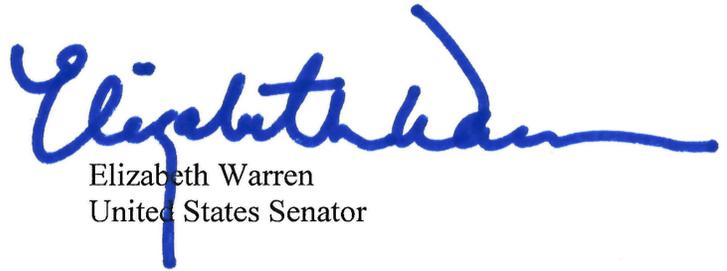
If you or members of your staff have any questions about this request, please feel free to ask your staff to contact Roberto Berrios with Senator Carper's office at 202-224-2441 or Brian Cohen with Senator Warren's staff at 202-224-4543 or Valerie Shen with Ranking Member Cummings at 202-225-5051. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

⁶ Stephanie Murray, *Don Jr. and Eric Trump Racked Up Nearly \$250,000 in Secret Service Costs in One Month, Watchdog Says*, POLITICO (July 18, 2018) (online at www.politico.com/story/2018/07/18/eric-donald-trump-jr-secret-service-costs-731113).

Sincerely,



Tom Carper
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform