

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 10, 2017

President-Elect Donald J. Trump
Trump Tower
725 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear President-Elect Trump:

Your nominees comprise what could be the wealthiest Presidential Administration in American history. In many cases your nominees earned their fortunes leading organizations in industries that they will be charged with regulating. Given the unique wealth and power of your nominees, we request that they provide additional information during the confirmation process in order to ensure that your Administration is free from conflicts of interest. First, we request that all of your nominees to federal agencies disclose any compensation or preferential treatment they will receive from an outside organization explicitly for accepting a high-level government job. Second, we request that your nominees provide documentation that explicitly details how they will recuse themselves from taking any actions relating to their former employers. The Senate is expected to begin holding hearings on your nominees this month and we would request that your nominees provide this information prior to their hearings so that Senators have the time needed to review it.

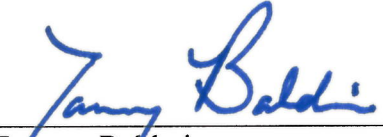
We know that many large organizations provide bonuses or accelerated vesting of stock awards for employees who leave to accept high-level jobs in the federal government. On January 3rd, the Wall Street Journal reported on just such an arrangement that will award your Secretary of State nominee, Mr. Rex Tillerson, \$180 million in compensation from his previous employer, Exxon Mobil. These payments would be forfeited if the employee were to leave for a competitor. This practice allows special interests to gain influence over federal officials who should be working only on behalf of the public interest. For this reason, we ask that any compensation provided to a nominee—that would be otherwise forfeited—be explicitly described in financial disclosure documents submitted to the Senate before nomination hearings begin.

Given your nominees' experiences leading some of the world's largest companies, we anticipate it will be difficult to mitigate conflicts of interest. We believe that expanded recusal requirements will be necessary and we ask that you explicitly detail how your nominees will recuse themselves from matters relating to their former employers or even industries.

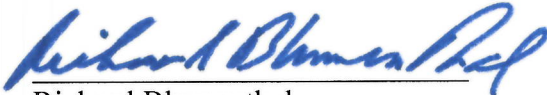
Mr. Trump, you made a promise to "drain the swamp" in Washington by reducing the influence of special interests in government. We urge you to not appoint foxes to guard the hen house. The American people cannot afford to have industry insiders writing their own rules to make a rigged system worse.

We look forward to working with your Administration to remove even the appearance of conflicts of interest, which as you know can have a deleterious effect on the public's faith in government institutions.

Sincerely,



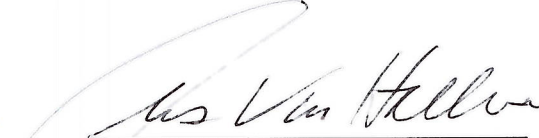
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator




Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



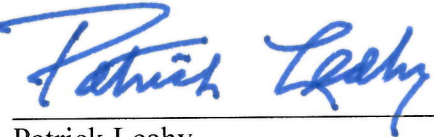
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator