

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2025

Edward Sullivan
Acting Chief
Public Integrity Section
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Acting Chief Sullivan:

We write to request an immediate investigation into President Trump's offer for the top investors in his \$TRUMP memecoin to attend a private dinner with him on May 22, 2025. This invites foreign influence over U.S. policy decisions and raises potential corruption and emoluments clause violations. It is just the latest example of President Trump disregarding ethics norms, introducing further conflicts of interest, and using his office for self-enrichment.

On April 23, 2025, a website connected to the Trump family, gettrumpmemes.com, announced that the top 220 investors in the \$TRUMP memecoin would be invited to a gala dinner with President Trump on May 22, 2025, located at his golf course outside of Washington D.C. The top 25 buyers would get face time with the President at "an ultra-exclusive private VIP" reception before the dinner, as well as a "special" V.I.P. tour of the White House.¹ And the top four investors would receive a limited-edition Trump-branded watch.²

President Trump promoted the event on social media as the "most EXCLUSIVE INVITATION in the world,"³ causing the price of the memecoin to surge more than 60 percent as investors rushed to accumulate enough coins to qualify for a dinner seat.⁴ Overall, the Trump family and its partners have earned more than \$320 million in trading fees since the memecoin was launched in January, including at least \$1.35 million following the dinner announcement, according to blockchain analytics firm Chainalysis.⁵

Investors spent more than \$145 million on \$TRUMP tokens over the duration of this contest,⁶ with some stating explicitly that they hoped to purchase influence with President Trump. For example, GD Culture Group, a small technology company that facilitates e-commerce for other businesses and brands on TikTok, recently announced plans to purchase \$300 million worth of \$TRUMP coins.⁷ And in the company's own words, its Chinese subsidiary may be subject to "[intervention] or influence" by the Chinese government.⁸ GD Culture Group's announcement came just days after President Trump indicated that he'd "be willing" to delay the

¹ "Trump Offers Private Dinner to Top 220 Investors in His Memecoin," 23 Apr. 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/23/technology/trump-private-dinner-crypto-memecoin.html>.

² @GetTrumpMemes, 29 Apr. 2025, <https://x.com/GetTrumpMemes/status/1917207115967451647>.

³ "Buyers of \$TRUMP meme spent \$148 million to win dinner with President Trump," 12 May 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/buyers-trump-meme-coin-pay-millions-win-dinner-with-president-trump-2025-05-12/>.

⁴ "Trump Offers Private Dinner to Top 220 Investors in His Memecoin."

⁵ "Buyers of \$TRUMP meme spent \$148 million to win dinner with President Trump."

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ "Tiny Company With China Ties Announces Big Purchase of Trump Cryptocurrency," 13 May 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/13/us/politics/trump-crypto-purchase.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>.

⁸ Form 10-K for GD Culture Group, 18 Mar. 2025, pp. 2, <https://gdculture.gcs-web.com/static-files/b345bfa5-43af-4b68-abb9-8f13dbd5707c>.

statutorily required ban on TikTok in the U.S. past its June 19, 2025, deadline.⁹ Freight Technologies, a Houston-based company that specializes in U.S.-Mexico-Canada cross-border shipping,¹⁰ was even more direct about why it planned to purchase \$20 million worth of President Trump’s memecoin: to help the company “advocate for fair, balanced, and free trade between Mexico and U.S.,” the company’s CEO said in a statement.¹¹ After the contest closed, at least 34 of the top 220 investors sold most of their memecoin holdings,¹² further confirming that the \$TRUMP memecoin is not a worthwhile investment, but rather a vehicle to buy influence with the Trump Administration.

The \$TRUMP memecoin website displays a leaderboard of the winners whose identities remain largely unknown due to the anonymity of digital wallets.¹³ However, a Bloomberg analysis found that 19 of the top 25 memecoin holders are likely foreign nationals.¹⁴ Notably, Justin Sun, a Chinese billionaire who has privately touted his ties to the Chinese government¹⁵ and founded a blockchain network often used to finance illicit activities, confirmed that he held the top spot.¹⁶ He owned more than \$18 million worth of the memecoin on May 12, 2025, when the contest ended.¹⁷ Since March 2023, Sun has been facing a lawsuit from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), alleging fraudulent market manipulation on his platform.¹⁸ This legal action was notably paused by the Trump administration¹⁹ after he invested \$30 million in one of President Trump’s other cryptocurrency ventures.²⁰ In what appears to be a quid pro quo move, Sun then invested an additional \$45 million into President Trump’s World Liberty Project,²¹ while simultaneously increasing his holdings of the \$TRUMP memecoin.

Former Republican lawmakers, President Trump’s former aides, and cryptocurrency industry leaders recognize these national security risks and the opportunity for corruption. Charles Dent, the former chairman of the House Ethics Committee, recently stated that “foreign entities and governments obviously want to curry favor with the president. This is completely out of bounds and raises all sorts of ethical, legal and constitutional issues that must be addressed.”²² Additionally, Anthony Scaramucci, a former official in the Trump administration, characterized President Trump’s memecoin as representing “Idi Amin level corruption.”²³ Furthermore, Vitalik

⁹ “President Donald Trump interviewed by 'Meet the Press' moderator Kristen Welker,” 5 May 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/trump-administration/read-full-transcript-president-donald-trump-interviewed-meet-press-mod-rcna203514>.

¹⁰ Freight Technologies, Inc. Ordinary Shares (FRGT), <https://www.nasdaq.com/market-activity/stocks/frgt>.

¹¹ “Investors start cashing out of Trump’s token ahead of memecoin dinner,” 13 May 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/13/trump-crypto-memecoin-dinner-00344190>.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ \$TRUMP Official Winners, <https://trumpdinner.gettrumpmemes.com/>.

¹⁴ “Top Trump Crypto Buyers Vying for Dinner Seats Are Likely Foreign, Data Shows,” 7 May 2025, <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2025-trump-memecoin-foreign-crypto-traders/>.

¹⁵ “Crypto billionaire Justin Sun graces the daily cover of Forbes,” 27 Mar. 2025, <https://www.mitradec.com/insights/news/live-news/article-3-723868-20250328>.

¹⁶ @justinsuntron, 20 May 2025, <https://x.com/justinsuntron/status/1924676460461310008>.

¹⁷ “Here’s Who Is Going to Donald Trump’s Meme Coin Dinner,” 13 May 2025, <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/donald-trump-meme-coin-dinner-guests.html>.

¹⁸ “SEC Charges Crypto Entrepreneur Justin Sun and His Companies for Fraud and Other Securities Law Violations,” 22 Mar. 2023, <https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023-59>.

¹⁹ “A crypto mogul who invested millions into Trump coins is getting a reprieve on civil fraud charges,” 28 Jan. 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/28/business/crypto-mogul-trump-coins-civil-fraud-charges>.

²⁰ “Chinese entrepreneur sued for fraud invests \$30 million in Trump crypto venture,” 6 Dec. 2024, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/chinese-entrepreneur-sued-fraud-invests-30-million-trump/story?id=116499146>.

²¹ “Justin Sun Invests Additional \$45M in DeFi Platform World Liberty Financial,” 20 Jan. 2025, <https://www.binance.com/en/square/post/19213610394689/>.

²² “Tiny Company With China Ties Announces Big Purchase of Trump Cryptocurrency.”

²³ @Scaramucci, 18 Jan. 2025, <https://x.com/Scaramucci/status/1880570676043727354>.

Buterin, a co-founder of Ethereum, emphasized that politician-backed coins “are vehicles for unlimited political bribery, including from foreign nation states.”²⁴

U.S. law prohibits foreign persons from contributing to U.S. political campaigns.²⁵ However, the \$TRUMP memecoin, including the promotion of a dinner promising exclusive access to the President, opens the door for foreign governments to buy influence with the President, all without disclosing their identities.

The Public Integrity Section was established in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal and exists to ensure that the Department of Justice conducts fair and thorough investigations into corruption by government officials at all levels, without regard to those officials’ political views or allegiances.²⁶

We therefore urge you to launch an immediate inquiry to determine whether this dinner event violates the federal bribery statute²⁷ or the foreign emoluments clause of the U.S. Constitution.²⁸ If the Department of Justice concludes that it does, we ask that you set aside political considerations and pursue action to uphold public integrity and the rule of law.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress

²⁴ “Vitalik Buterin takes aim at ‘unlimited political bribery’ using tokens,” 23 Jan. 2025, <https://cointelegraph.com/news/vitalik-buterin-unlimited-political-bribery-tokens>.

²⁵ 52 USC 30121: Contributions and donations by foreign nationals.

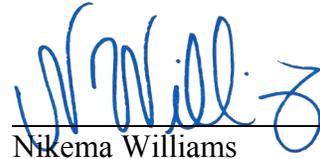
²⁶ Sen. Whitehouse letter to AG Pam Bondi, <https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-03-20-DOJ-Public-Integrity-Letter-FINAL-1.pdf>.

²⁷ 18 U.S.C. § 201.

²⁸ U.S. Const., Art. I, § 9, Cl. 8.



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Subcommittee
on Capital Markets



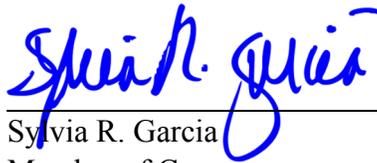
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



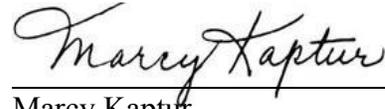
Sam T. Liccardo
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Marcy Kaptur
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Cleo Fields
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Al Green
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Bill Foster
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Joyce Beatty
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Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



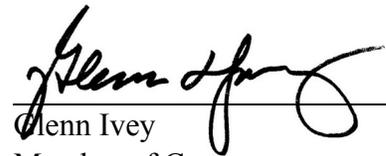
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



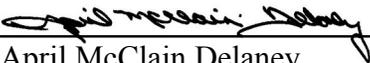
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



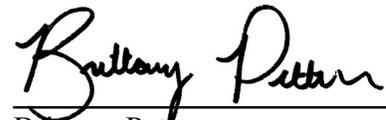
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Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
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April McClain Delaney
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Brittany Pettersen
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Greg Casar
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Betty McCollum
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Maxwell Alejandro Frost
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