

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write regarding deeply troubling reports that United States embassies and consulates are aggressively soliciting large private donations from foreign companies and executives in connection with America's 250th anniversary celebrations.¹ These activities raise serious questions about whether the Department of State has been drawn into a broader scheme by the Trump Administration to use the semiquincentennial as a vehicle for pay-to-play fundraising—one that may implicate federal ethics laws, conflict of interest statutes, and longstanding norms governing the diplomatic conduct of American officials abroad.²

In 2016, Congress established a nonpartisan U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to coordinate the nation's 250th birthday celebrations and authorized the America 250 Foundation as its nonprofit fundraising partner.³ This was a forward-looking decision to ensure that planning for one of our nation's most significant milestones remained free from partisan politics. However, the Trump Administration has moved to displace this congressionally created framework. Earlier this year, the White House announced "Freedom 250," an entity housed within the National Park Foundation and closely aligned with the President's political agenda.⁴ The Administration has since used Freedom 250 to aggressively solicit private donations, offering donors who contribute \$1 million or more preferred access to the President, VIP seating, photo opportunities, and public speaking roles tied to official White House activities.⁵

¹ Alexandra Stevenson, River Akira Davis & Kenneth P. Vogel, *Like Trump, U.S. Embassies Are Raising Cash for Lavish July Fourth Parties*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 15, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/15/business/trump-july-fourth-singapore-japan.html>.

² See All in for America250: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting America's Semiquincentennial on our Public Lands: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Oversight & Investigations of the H. Comm. on Natural Resources, 119th Cong. (2026).

³ America 250, *About America250*, <https://america250.org/about-america250> (last visited May 26, 2026).

⁴ Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Press Release, *New Investigation into Interior's Use of Taxpayer Resources for Trump-aligned Freedom 250* (Feb. 26, 2026), <https://peer.org/new-investigation-interiors-use-taxpayer-resources-trump-freedom-250>.

⁵ Kenneth P. Vogel, Lisa Friedman & David A. Fahrenthold, *For \$1 Million, Donors to U.S.A. Birthday Group Offered Access to Trump*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 8, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/08/us/politics/freedom-250-trump-donors.html>.

The concerns surrounding Freedom 250’s domestic fundraising are now compounded by reports that U.S. diplomatic missions are extending similar solicitation efforts overseas—even using the Freedom 250 name and branding in some cases.⁶ The solicitation of large donations from foreign entities to fund events tied to presidential access represents a significant departure from historical norms and raises profound questions about whether foreign nationals and companies are being offered inappropriate influence over U.S. government activities in exchange for cash payments for America’s 250th celebration.

Reports indicate that U.S. embassies and consulates across Asia have been actively soliciting substantial donations from foreign companies in connection with America 250 and Freedom 250 activities.⁷ While there is some precedent for private fundraising to supplement July Fourth celebrations abroad, the scale, methods, and apparent connection to a politically-linked domestic fundraising vehicle represent a stark departure from past practices.

The U.S. Ambassador to Japan, George Glass, reportedly wrote directly to prospective donors soliciting “significant financial support” for Mission Japan’s America 250 celebrations.⁸ Reports indicate that approximately \$35 million has been raised from Japanese companies, including individual contributions of more than \$1 million, and that these funds are intended to support more than 70 events across Japan.⁹ In Hong Kong, companies have received formal “America 250” solicitation forms from the U.S. consulate requesting donations.¹⁰

On February 5, 2026, U.S. Ambassador Anjani Sinha hosted a lavish dinner at the Capella Singapore—one of the city-state’s most expensive hotels—for local business executives.¹¹ According to a recording of the ambassador’s remarks, he told the assembled executives, “I need your money,” and cited the fundraising achievements of another embassy in the region to apply competitive pressure on the room.¹² He did not disclose that embassy’s identity, but sources familiar with the matter indicate it referred to Mission Japan’s approximately \$35 million in contributions.¹³ The Freedom 250 logo was displayed on screens throughout the dinner venue.¹⁴ Ambassador Sinha, who himself contributed \$1 million to a Trump-backed super PAC prior to his appointment, has pressed attendees for donations that were to support events including a rodeo and a Rockefeller Center-style Christmas tree installation in Singapore.¹⁵

⁶ Alexandra Stevenson, River Akira Davis & Kenneth P. Vogel, *Like Trump, U.S. Embassies Are Raising Cash for Lavish July Fourth Parties*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 15, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/15/business/trump-july-fourth-singapore-japan.html>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ See FEC Schedule A (Form 3X), MAGA Inc., Transaction ID SA17.4431, receipt dated Feb. 20, 2025 (reflecting \$1,000,000 payment from Anjani Sinha), <https://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg/?202507319789366248>.

The activities described above raise several significant oversight concerns that the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Foreign Affairs have a responsibility to examine. First, it remains unclear whether these embassy and consulate fundraising activities were authorized and coordinated by the Department of State, and whether appropriate ethics guidance was sought or provided. Second, and most critically, the apparent overlap between domestic Freedom 250 fundraising—in which million-dollar donations are explicitly linked to presidential access—and foreign solicitations using the Freedom 250 name and branding raises the question of whether foreign nationals and companies may be receiving, or believe they are receiving, the same access benefits. This would raise serious concerns under federal law. Third, the degree to which State Department personnel, resources, and the prestige of official diplomatic positions have been mobilized in service of a politically motivated and partisan fundraising enterprise demands transparency.

Accordingly, to assist the Committees' oversight responsibilities, we respectfully request that you produce the following documents and communications no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2026:

1. All documents and communications related to fundraising activities in Japan since January 20, 2025, in connection with America 250, Freedom 250, or any related semi quincennial initiative, including but not limited to Ambassador Glass's letter or letters to prospective donors soliciting financial support for Mission Japan's America 250 celebrations.
2. All documents and communications related to fundraising activities in Hong Kong since January 20, 2025, in connection with America 250, Freedom 250, or any related semi quincennial initiative, including all "America 250" solicitation forms distributed by the U.S. consulate.
3. All documents and communications related to fundraising activities in Singapore since January 20, 2025, in connection with America 250, Freedom 250, or any related semi quincennial initiative, including the guest list for the February 5, 2026, dinner hosted by Ambassador Sinha, all presentation materials, handouts, and any written or electronic communications with donors or prospective donors.
4. All guidance, directives, and policy memoranda issued by the Department of State since January 20, 2025, to U.S. embassies and consulates regarding fundraising for America 250, Freedom 250, and any semi quincennial initiative.
5. All communications since January 20, 2025, between the Department of State and the National Park Foundation, Freedom 250, and the White House regarding the use of Freedom 250's name, logo, and branding by U.S. diplomatic missions.
6. All ethics guidance sought or provided to Department personnel since January 20, 2025, regarding solicitation of foreign donations for America 250 or Freedom 250 activities, including any opinions or advice from the Office of Government Ethics or Department ethics officials.

7. All documents since January 20, 2025, related to all benefits, access, or other considerations offered or provided to foreign donors in connection with America 250 or Freedom 250.

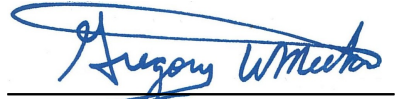
We expect the Department to take these oversight requests seriously and to provide a complete and timely response. The American people deserve to know whether their diplomatic representatives abroad are being used to advance a pay-to-play fundraising scheme tied to access to the President of the United States, and whether foreign money is flowing into activities that blur the line between official government functions and personal political benefit.

Please contact the minority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations at (202) 225-6065 and the minority staff of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs at (202) 225-5021 with any questions regarding this request. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on Natural Resources



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on Foreign Affairs