



**One Hundred Fourteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515**

October 28, 2016

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
United States Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

I am writing to request that the Government Accountability Office conduct an audit of taxpayer funds expended to the Donald J. Trump Presidential Campaign. Certain Federal government entities are required to provide services to Trump's campaign. When Federal government entities become involved with Trump's campaign, the American taxpayer-- not the campaign --assumes a financial liability. Since Trump has a direct, pecuniary interest in many of the campaign's equities including the campaign's aircraft, lodging, and meeting spaces, it is imperative that we know whether or not the entities owned by him are subjecting taxpayers to egregious charges. Furthermore, taxpayers should know whether or not a candidate campaigning for an elected office profits at their expense.

One example of a Federal asset that is used by the campaign is the United States Secret Service ("Secret Service"). The Secret Service bears the cost of its agents traveling with Trump. As of September 30, the Secret Service has paid close to 2 million dollars to the Trump campaign for travel on TAG Air, Inc, an entity Trump owns.¹ According to Federal law, candidates who own their aircraft must charge their campaign, "the fair market value of the normal and usual charter fare or rental charge for a comparable plane of comparable size."² Since Trump owns the aircraft provider, he sets the charges and receives the reimbursable funds. Taxpayers are obligated to know whether or not the Secret Service is being charged the fair market value for these flights.

Americans expect transparency in the election process. I do not believe that American taxpayers expect people running for elected office to gain a profit. At a time when some have speculated

¹ Federal Election Commission, Offsets to Operating Expenditures—Trump, Donald J./Michael R. Pence.

² 52 U.S.C. 301 (c) (1) (B).

that this presidential candidate seeks to commercialize running for office, I believe that it is essential that the taxpayers know how much of their hard earned dollars go into a candidate's pocket.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. To further discuss this request, please contact Hope Goins, Chief Counsel for Oversight, at (202) 226-2616.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Ranking Member