

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 51

Calling on President Donald J. Trump to comply with the Emoluments  
Clause of the United States Constitution.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was  
referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling on President Donald J. Trump to comply with the  
Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution.

Whereas article 1, section 9, clause 8 of the United States  
Constitution states: “no person holding any office of prof-  
it or trust . . . shall, without the consent of the Con-  
gress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title  
of any kind whatever, for any king, prince, or foreign  
state”;

Whereas in Federalist No. 22 (Alexander Hamilton) it is  
said, “One of the weak sides of republics, among their  
numerous advantages, is that they afford too easy an  
inlet to foreign corruption”;

Whereas the delegates to the Constitutional Convention spe-  
cifically designed the Emoluments Clause as an antidote  
to potentially corrupting foreign practices of a kind that

the Framers had observed during the period of the Confederation;

Whereas the word emoluments means profit, salary, fees, or compensation which would include direct payment as well as other benefits including extension of credit, forgiveness of debt, or the granting of rights of pecuniary value;

Whereas in 2009, the Office of Legal Counsel clarified that corporations owned or controlled by foreign governments presumptively qualify as foreign States under the Foreign Emoluments Clause;

Whereas against the advice of ethics attorneys and the Office of Government Ethics, the President has refused to divest his ownership stake in his businesses;

Whereas the then-Director of the nonpartisan Office of Government Ethics said that the President's transfer of his business holdings to a trust managed by family members is "meaningless" and "does not meet the standards that . . . every president in the past four decades has met";

Whereas Congress has previously given its consent for sitting presidents to accept foreign emoluments, after being given the opportunity to review the gift;

Whereas Congress can only give its consent for emoluments received by a president if the president provides information on the emoluments he has received from foreign sources, including the amount, the source, and the circumstances under which the emolument was received;

Whereas President Trump has failed to provide Congress the opportunity to review any information related to emoluments he has received and continues to receive, denying Congress the opportunity to fulfill its duty to review and consent to the emoluments;

Whereas the President is a part owner of an office building on the Avenue of the Americas in New York City, reportedly carrying a \$950 million loan, partially held by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China;

Whereas the Governments of Afghanistan, India, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, and Thailand all leased space in Trump World Tower in Manhattan during the first eight months of the presidency;

Whereas since the start of his presidency, the Government of China has approved 40 new trademarks to President Trump and his companies;

Whereas in January and February 2017, the Saudi Government paid \$270,000 for a lobbying firm's hotel room and other expenses at Trump International Hotel Washington, DC;

Whereas on February 25, 2017, the Embassy of Kuwait held its National Day Celebration at Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC, reportedly spending an estimated amount between \$40,000 and \$60,000 on the celebration;

Whereas the Prime Ministers of Malaysia and Romania have stayed at the Trump International Hotel during official visits to Washington, DC;

Whereas in September, Turkish Airlines, which is partly owned by the Turkish Government, held its World Golf Cup at the Trump National Golf Club—DC in Potomac Falls, Virginia;

Whereas government-run television networks in the United Kingdom and Vietnam pay royalties for broadcasting spinoffs of the *Celebrity Apprentice*, a show for which the President retains his Executive Producer title; and

Whereas the President continues to engage in business transactions with foreign governments by maintaining a business interest in over 500 entities including, both commercial and residential real estate properties, management and media companies, and shell corporations set up to capitalize on licensing deals: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3           (1) calls on President Donald J. Trump to take  
4       measures, consistent with the advice of the Office of  
5       Legal Ethics and precedent set by previous Presi-  
6       dents, to ensure compliance with the Emoluments  
7       Clause of the United States Constitution;

8           (2) declares President Donald J. Trump's re-  
9       ceipt of foreign emoluments without the opportunity  
10      for Congressional review and consent a violation of  
11      the Emoluments Clause of the United States Con-  
12      stitution; and

13          (3) directs President Donald J. Trump to dis-  
14      close to Congress all information related to foreign  
15      emoluments received, including but not limited to  
16      personal and business tax documents, to enable Con-  
17      gress to fulfill its Constitutional duty to ensure that  
18      Federal officeholders are free of corruption.

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