

February 2, 2018

Mr. Eugene Louis Dodaro
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW, Mail Stop 4T21,
Washington, D.C., 20548

Dear Comptroller General Eugene Louis Dodaro:

I am writing because American tax dollars have been unlawfully used to subsidize President Donald Trump's campaign for reelection, "Donald J. Trump for President," as well as the campaign of Rick Saccone, a Republican congressional candidate in Pennsylvania.

During President Trump's first year in office, President Trump has continuously billed campaign trips across the country as "official" business - foisting the costs of his own campaigning as well as campaigning on behalf of candidates like Mr. Saccone onto American taxpayers. This pattern has especially grown in recent weeks. In light of the abuse of federal funds revealed to be taking place in many ways on the part of the Trump administration -- such as spending millions on private jets as well as hundreds-of-thousands on golf cart rentals at Trump-branded properties -- this improper use of taxpayer money to benefit campaign efforts should be of urgent importance to the Government Accountability Office.

The latest examples of this unacceptable waste took place in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. President Trump and Vice President Pence traveled three times to the two states at taxpayer expense to deliver speeches to small crowds of Trump supporters - events that video evidence and press coverage show to be no different from campaign rallies in the way that they were conducted and based on what President Trump and Vice President Pence told the supporters in each audience.

Additionally, the events included the same music playlists as Trump's campaign rallies, including Trump walking out to 'God Bless The USA' and leaving to 'You Can't Always Get What You Want' in both West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

According to the White House, these campaign stops were meant to support the massive, deficit-busting tax cut for corporations and billionaires that Trump forced through Congress despite the pleas of millions of middle-class Americans who – along with their children and grandchildren - will end up footing the bill for this disaster for generations. But the dishonest scheme was exposed when, just before his Pennsylvania event, President Trump tweeted, "going to Pennsylvania today in order to give my total support to RICK SACCONI, running for Congress in a Special Election (March 13)." Moreover, during Trump's event at H&K Equipment Company, he highlighted Mr. Saccone's presence, calling Saccone "a person that people are hearing more and more about, a real friend, and a spectacular man."

Revealing a similarly brazen con job, both Donald Trump and Mike Pence's trips to West Virginia were scheduled around RNC events in the state. Pence's was just minutes down the road from the RNC event and required state taxpayers in West Virginia to foot the bill for state

troopers to accompany him down the street. Each of these White House swindlers added one short “official event” to their itinerary, allowing the reelection campaign to pass the travel expenses on to taxpayers.

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In addition to advocating for the election of Republican candidates and defeat of Democratic candidates, Trump and Pence’s speeches were high on class warfare, slogans, and campaign rhetoric, but were low on substance that would benefit the populace at large.

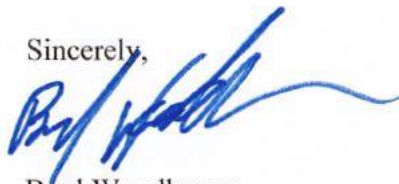
This is a deeply concerning and growing trend. In fact, in little more than a year, President Trump has held many events that benefitted his campaign but for which taxpayers were charged.

I am sympathetic to the fact that you may be currently very busy dealing with the host of ethical problems and other scandals that the Trump Administration has led to, as well the revolting ways Trump and his family members are personally profiting off the Presidency, and so we took the unusual step of submitting a formal complaint on behalf of the wronged taxpayers who bare being increasingly taken advantage of by the president's campaign activities.

We believe it is of the utmost importance for this issue to be investigated and a determination to be made as to whether this disturbing pattern qualifies as fraud. It is clear that President Trump will continue this unjust form of campaigning at taxpayer expense if he is not held to account

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Brad Woodhouse,
American Democracy Legal Fund