

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 5, 2026

Mr. Luke T. Niederhelman
Director of Presidential Gifts and Gift
Protocol
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Edward C. Forst
Administrator
U.S. General Services
Administration
1800 F Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20405

The Honorable Bradford Wilson
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records
Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, M.D. 20740

Dear Mr. Niederhelman, Mr. Forst, and Mr. Wilson:

We write to you today seeking information about the location and ownership of the watch-sized, 18-karat gold ring encrusted with 321 diamonds and 75 gemstones that the Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) gifted to President Trump just weeks before the Administration announced it was exempting European diamonds from its chaotic tariffs.¹

Last month, we wrote to AWDC and David Gotlib Luxury Cufflinks raising questions about what appeared to be a cartoonish bribery attempt, in line with the President's record of doling out special treatments to corporate interests that are willing to woo him with flattery, payoffs, or both.² In response, AWDC released a statement denying any connection between the gift and the exemptions and claiming the ring was a "gift to the United States"³—despite the fact that the ring has two diamond "T" emblems, Superman-style "45" and "47" logos, the Presidential Seal, and an interior engraving reading: "Crafted in Antwerp for Donald John Trump."⁴

¹ New York Times, "How Diamonds, Paprika and Fertilizer Won Relief From Trump's Tariffs," Ana Swanson and Jeanna Smialek, July 30, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/30/business/economy/trump-tariffs-exemptions.html>; AWDC, "Antwerp diamond sector presents exclusive ring featuring 321 natural diamonds to the United States in honour of 250 years of independence," press release, June 29, 2026, <https://www.awdc.be/news/press/antwerp-diamond-sector-presents-exclusive-ring-featuring-321-natural-diamonds-united>.

² Letter from U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Richard Blumenthal to AWDC President Isidore Mörsel & David Gotlib Luxury Cufflinks Founder David Gotlib, August 10, 2026, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Final-Letter-from-Senators-Warren-Blumenthal-to-AWDC-on-Trump-Gold-Ring-Gift.pdf>.

³ AWDC, "AWDC's reaction on questions about the gifted ring for the 250th anniversary of the United States of America," press release, August 12, 2026, <https://www.awdc.be/news/press/awdcs-reaction-questions-about-gifted-ring-250th-anniversary-united-states-america>.

The disposition of the ring is currently unknown. In June 2026, AWDC presented the ring to U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Bill White, declaring that he “entrust[ed] this ring” to Ambassador White “for presentation to President Trump.”⁵ At the time, President Trump expressed his gratitude for the ring virtually via a pre-recorded message,⁶ and Ambassador White posted that he could not “wait to present this ring to President Trump and have it on display in the Oval Office.”⁷ As of July 2, 2026, the White House confirmed that the ring had not yet been presented to President Trump.⁸ To date, we are not aware of any public reporting indicating the current location of the ring.

Traditionally, gifts given by anyone besides a foreign government to the President, the White House, or the U.S. Government are first screened, categorized, and evaluated by the White House Gift Office.⁹ Gifts made to the President personally, and accepted, may be retained by the President, while gifts that are made to the government of the United States and personal gifts not retained by the President are typically catalogued and then distributed to the appropriate government agency.¹⁰ For example, furnishings gifted to the United States might be distributed to the National Park Service for use at the White House, and historical material might be distributed to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).¹¹ If there is no use for the gift, the gifts are typically distributed to the General Services Administration (GSA) to be stored, sold, or disposed of.¹²

To the extent that AWDC, as a public-private partnership, constitutes, is controlled by, or acts on behalf of a foreign government, the diamond ring should have been processed through different channels. Gifts that have been gifted by foreign governments or agents working on behalf of foreign governments are subject to the Foreign Emoluments Clause and therefore may not be accepted without the consent of Congress.¹³ Under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, Congress permits the acceptance of certain foreign government gifts if they are of “minimum value” and offered as souvenirs or marks of courtesy, or if refusal of the gift would harm U.S. foreign relations or cause “offense or embarrassment.”¹⁴ Gifts of the latter kind that are over the minimum value of \$525 are considered to be property of the United States and cannot be

⁴ AP News, “Belgian diamond group that won tariff relief gifted Trump a lavishly encrusted ring,” Sam McNeil, July 3, 2026, <https://apnews.com/article/antwerp-belgium-diamond-ring-trump-3d23fb3ff8a7bab763dd51880a1987ca>.

⁵ Tweet by U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Bill White, July 3, 2026, <https://x.com/USAmbToBelgium/status/2072949203756626400>.

⁶ Tweet by U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Bill White, July 3, 2026, <https://x.com/USAmbToBelgium/status/2073148037661155828/video/1>.

⁷ Tweet by U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Bill White, July 3, 2026, <https://x.com/USAmbToBelgium/status/2072949203756626400>.

⁸ AP News, “Belgian diamond group that won tariff relief gifted Trump a lavishly encrusted ring,” Sam McNeil, July 3, 2026, <https://apnews.com/article/antwerp-belgium-diamond-ring-trump-3d23fb3ff8a7bab763dd51880a1987ca>.

⁹ Congressional Research Service, “Gifts to the President of the United States,” August 16, 2012, pp. 4-5, <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R42662.pdf>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

accepted by the President in a personal capacity.¹⁵ If they are intended for the President or his family, the gift is typically handled by the National Archives and Records Administration.¹⁶

Federal law and Office of Government Ethics regulations bar the President from “solicit[ing] or coerce[ing]” the offering of a gift, or accepting a gift in return for an “official act.”¹⁷ Federal criminal law also prohibits the President from “directly or indirectly, corruptly demand[ing], seek[ing], receiv[ing], accept[ing], or agree[ing] to receive or accept anything of value personally or for any other person or entity, in return for . . . being influenced in the performance of any official act.”¹⁸ The circumstances in which AWDC gifted this ring, and the lack of clarity about its disposition, raise significant questions about whether the President has in fact accepted the ring as part of a quid pro quo agreement to reduce diamond tariffs.

As part of our Congressional oversight duties, we request answers to the following questions by no later than October 19, 2026, in order to better understand the unseemly appearance of this transaction.

Questions for the White House Gift Office:

1. Where is the ring physically located today?
2. Describe in detail the ring’s complete chain of custody, inclusive of each date on which the ring changed hands, from Ambassador White’s acceptance to its current disposition.
3. How has the ring been classified? Did the White House classify the ring as a gift to President Trump in his personal capacity, his official capacity, or as a gift to the United States?
 - a. Did the President accept the gift as a personal gift?
 - b. Who made that determination and on what date?
 - c. Is the ring considered federal property?
4. Has the ring been classified as a foreign gift or a domestic gift?
 - a. What steps or analysis, if any, has the White House Gift Office taken to ensure that acceptance of the gift does not violate the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the Constitution?
 - b. What steps, if any, has the White House Gift Office taken to ensure that the acceptance of the gift complies with the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA)?
5. Please explain the Trump White House’s process for receiving, cataloguing, and categorizing gifts.
6. Has the ring been transferred to any federal government agency? If so, which government agency or agencies, on what date(s) and on what basis?

¹⁵ *Id.*; U.S. General Services Administration, “Foreign gifts,” last updated April 23, 2026, <https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/policy/personal-property-policy/special-programs/foreign-gifts>.

¹⁶ Congressional Research Service, “Gifts to the President of the United States,” August 16, 2012, p. 4, <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R42662.pdf>.

¹⁷ 5 U.S.C. § 7353, 5 C.F.R. §§ 2635.202, 2635.204.

¹⁸ 18 U.S.C. § 201.

Questions for the GSA and NARA:

1. When, if at all, was the ring delivered into the custody of your agency?
2. Does it remain in your custody? If not, where is the ring now and on what date was it transferred?
3. Please explain the considerations and process by which your agency determines whether the gift should be stored, sold or disposed of.
4. What did your agency decide about the disposition of the ring?
5. Did your agency receive direction from President Trump or the White House as to how to handle the diamond ring?
6. Where is the ring physically located today?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator