United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 23, 2026

The Honorable JD Vance
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I write today with serious concern that you may have used your position as Vice President to help a major political donor secure lucrative business opportunities involving Venezuelan oil. Given the significant financial interests at stake and the importance of safeguarding government decision-making against improper influence, I am seeking information about your involvement in these arrangements.

Reuters recently reported that you discussed the sale of Venezuelan oil with John Addison, a major political donor and then-executive at the energy company Vitol, shortly before the Trump Administration's January 2026 military operation in Venezuela.[1] Despite denials from your office and Mr. Addison, flight records place his private jet and your government plane at the same Montana airport on the day of the reported meeting.[2] According to one account of this meeting, you were "particularly interested" in the timeline for selling Venezuelan crude "if the US hypothetically gained control of the country's oil supplies."[3] Days after the reported meeting and the military operation that followed, Secretary Chris Wright of the Department of Energy contacted Mr. Addison personally about marketing Venezuelan oil, and Vitol subsequently secured a valuable license to sell it.[4]

Your personal and political relationships with Mr. Addison raise concerns about how Vitol may have obtained this opportunity. Mr. Addison himself told Reuters that you had previously vouched for his trustworthiness to Secretary Wright, "paving the way for the call" described above.[5] Notably, Mr. Addison contributed $300,000 toward your 2022 Senate campaign, and he and his wife donated $7 million to groups supporting President Trump's 2024 campaign.[6] The financial upside for Mr. Addison has been considerable: by some estimates, Vitol has earned hundreds of millions in profit from marketing

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[1] *How a Vitol Trader's Ties to JD Vance Helped Land a Prized Venezuela Oil Contract*, Reuters (Nov. 11, 2026) (www.reuters.com/business/energy/exclusive-how-vitol-traders-ties-jd-vance-helped-land-prized-venezuela-oil-2026-11-11/).

[2] *Id.*

[3] *Id.*

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Id.*

[6] *Id.*

Venezuelan oil, with profit margins as much as four times the company's reported operating margins in recent years.[7]

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized under Rule XXV(k)(2)(B) of the Standing Rules of the Senate to study "the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government."[8] The Committee is further authorized to "study or investigate . . . the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches of the Government including the possible existence of . . . corruption or unethical practices, waste, extravagance, [and] conflicts of interest."[9] As a member of the Committee and its incoming Chair, I am examining whether existing law adequately prevents, discloses, and remedies conflicts of interest held by senior Executive Branch officials, and whether legislation is needed to strengthen it.

To better understand your involvement in the matters described above and assess potential conflicts of interest, please provide the following information and documents by December 14, 2026:

1. All communications between you or your staff and Mr. Addison or Vitol regarding Venezuela and potential business opportunities involving the federal government from January 20, 2025, to the present.

2. All communications concerning Mr. Addison, Vitol, or their involvement in Venezuelan oil sales between you or your staff and Secretary Wright, any other Administration official, or their respective staffs from January 20, 2025, to the present.

3. Did you meet with Mr. Addison on or around December 27, 2025? If so, please identify when and where the meeting occurred, who participated, and what was discussed.

    a. Please provide any records reflecting your schedule, meetings, or communications with Mr. Addison during your December 2025 visit to Montana.

4. What role, if any, did you or your staff play in the Administration's decision to select Vitol to sell Venezuelan oil? Please identify any recommendations you made, officials you contacted, or actions you took concerning Vitol's selection.

    a. Please provide all documents and communications involving you or your staff concerning the process for selecting Vitol, including any discussions regarding whether to conduct a competitive selection process, the criteria used to evaluate potential participants, and the terms or profitability of the resulting arrangements.

5. Reuters reported that a U.S. official confirmed that you "had told Wright in a conversation that Addison was a trustworthy person in the energy industry."[10] When

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[7] *Id.*

[8] Senate Rule XXV(k)(2)(B).

[9] S. Res 94, 119th Cong., 1st Sess. § 12(e)(1)(A) (2025).

[10] *How a Vitol Trader's Ties to JD Vance Helped Land a Prized Venezuela Oil Contract*, Reuters (Nov. 11, 2026) (www.reuters.com/business/energy/exclusive-how-vitol-traders-ties-jd-vance-helped-land-prized-venezuela-oil-2026-11-11/).

and under what circumstances did you discuss Mr. Addison with Secretary Wright? What prompted those discussions, and did you subsequently recommend Mr. Addison or Vitol for a role in Venezuelan oil sales? Please describe these discussions, if any.

6. When did you first learn that Secretary Wright intended to contact or had contacted Mr. Addison regarding Venezuelan oil sales? Were you or your staff involved in facilitating that conversation?

7. Please identify any steps you or your staff took to assess, disclose, or address potential conflicts of interest arising from your relationship with Mr. Addison, including any consultations with White House ethics officials or other government ethics personnel.

If you have any questions related to this request, please contact HassanLetters@hassan.senate.gov. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to HassanLetters@hassan.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator