



TI-USA Calls on President Trump to Honor Commitments Regarding Businesses and Taxes

January 23, 2017. Transparency International-USA calls on President Donald Trump to demonstrate that his administration will operate transparently and with integrity. These are the basic standards to which American citizens hold their presidents.

President Trump must immediately honor two commitments he made to the public: Fully separating his businesses from government and disclosing his tax returns. At his January 11 press conference, Trump's lawyer Sherri Dillon described steps that he would take, prior to his inauguration, to separate his business from government. But as of January 20, [there was no record](#) that he had taken the necessary steps to begin this process. To assure the public that he has fulfilled his commitments, President Trump should share with the public documentation that he has fully relinquished leadership and management of the Trump Organization and shifted all of his assets to a trust managed by his two sons.

The administration also needs to demonstrate to the public that Trump companies will not receive preferential treatment from U.S. regulatory agencies. By proactively prohibiting his appointees from making decisions or taking actions that may involve his businesses, President Trump can demonstrate a commitment to putting the people first.

During the campaign, President Trump repeatedly promised to release his tax returns once an audit was complete. But on January 22, White House counselor Kellyanne Conway [claimed that President Trump would not be releasing his taxes](#) because "people didn't care." In fact, a [majority of Americans](#) believe that Trump has a responsibility to release his returns, just as every president has done for the past four decades. If the president breaks this promise to the American people, he and his administration will be dogged by ongoing conflict of interest and corruption concerns.

TI-USA has previously called for actions by the then in-coming administration to combat conflicts of interest, including in its statements of [January 18](#), [December 8](#), [November 21](#), and [November 9](#). Disclosure is in the interest of both the administration and the public.