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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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June 12, 2023

## VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Gregory Norman  
Chief Executive Officer  
LIV Golf Incorporated  
333 SE 2nd Ave Suite 2000  
Miami, FL 33131

Dear Mr. Norman:

Pursuant to its authority under Senate Resolution 59 (118th Cong.) and rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations is reviewing matters related to the planned agreement between the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund (PIF), which owns LIV Golf, and PGA TOUR, Inc. (PGA Tour).<sup>1</sup> PGA Tour announced on June 6, 2023 that it had reached an agreement to combine its commercial businesses with those of LIV Golf, with PIF providing “a capital investment into the new entity to facilitate its growth and success.”<sup>2</sup> While few details about the agreement are known, PIF’s role as an arm of the Saudi government and PGA Tour’s sudden and drastic reversal of position concerning LIV Golf raise serious questions regarding the reasons for and terms behind the announced agreement.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, I write to request documents and information related to this agreement.

PIF is an investment fund of more than \$700 billion created by the Saudi government and run by a board that makes investment decisions under “the chairmanship and guidance” of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, the effective Saudi leader.<sup>4</sup> PGA Tour’s agreement with PIF regarding LIV Golf raises concerns about the Saudi government’s role in influencing this effort and the risks posed by a foreign government entity assuming control over a cherished American institution. PIF has announced that it intends to use investments in sports to further the Saudi government’s strategic objectives.<sup>5</sup> It established LIV Golf Investments in 2021 to serve

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<sup>1</sup> Alan Blinder, *PGA Tour Can Depose Saudi Wealth Fund’s Leader, Judge Rules*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 17, 2023), <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/17/sports/golf/liv-pga-saudi-influence.html>.

<sup>2</sup> *PGA TOUR, DP World Tour and PIF Announce Newly Formed Commercial Entity to Unify Golf*, PGA TOUR (June 6, 2023), <https://www.pgatour.com/article/news/latest/2023/06/06/pga-tour-dp-world-tour-and-pif-announce-newly-formed-commercial-entity-to-unify-golf>; see also Rick Maese and Matt Bonesteel, *PGA Tour Agrees to Partner with Saudi-backed LIV Golf, Ending Bitter Feud*, WASH. POST (June 6, 2023), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2023/06/06/liv-golf-pga-tour-merger/>.

<sup>3</sup> See Matt Bonesteel, *Here’s What We Know — and Don’t Know — About the PGA Tour-LIV Golf Deal*, WASH. POST (June 6, 2023), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2023/06/06/pga-merger-what-to-know/>.

<sup>4</sup> Public Investment Fund, *Annual Report 2021*, <https://www.pif.gov.sa/Annual%20Report%20EN/PIF%20Annual%20Report%202021.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

this goal.<sup>6</sup> Critics have cast such Saudi investments in sports as a means of “sportswashing”<sup>7</sup>—an attempt to soften the country’s image around the world—given Saudi Arabia’s deeply disturbing human rights record at home and abroad.<sup>8</sup>

To assist the Subcommittee’s inquiry, please provide the documents and information listed below by June 26, 2023. For the purposes of this request, the term “Agreement” refers to the “agreement that combines PIF’s golf-related commercial businesses and rights (including LIV Golf) with the commercial businesses and rights of the PGA Tour and DP World Tour into a new, collectively owned, for-profit entity,” announced on June 6, 2023.<sup>9</sup> The Term “LIV Golf” includes, but is not limited to LIV Golf Investments, LIV GOLF LTD, and/or LIV GOLF INCORPORATED, and any other subsidiaries, divisions, partnerships, properties, affiliates, branches, groups, special purpose entities, joint ventures, predecessors, successors, or any other entity in which LIV Golf Investments had or has a controlling interest, and any employees or agents of any such entities. The term “PGA Tour” includes, but is not limited to PGA Tour, Inc., the PGA Foundation, PGA Reach, and any other subsidiaries, divisions, partnerships, properties, affiliates, branches, groups, special purpose entities, joint ventures, predecessors, successors, or any other entity in which PGA Tour, Inc. had or has a controlling interest, and any employees or agents of any such entities. The period covered by this request is October 2021 to present.

1. All records<sup>10</sup> referring or relating to the relationship between LIV Golf and PGA Tour, including but not limited to all communications referring or relating to the Agreement.
2. All records referring or relating to the Agreement, including but not limited to all internal or external communications related to the possibility of entering the Agreement, and all records related to the structure of the “new, collectively owned, for-profit entity” to be formed by the Agreement.
3. All records referring or relating to any dispute between LIV Golf, PIF, Yasir Al-Rumayyan, and PGA Tour or Jay Monahan.

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<sup>6</sup> Andrew England et al., *Saudi Arabia’s Billions Are Shaking up Golf. What Next?* FINANCIAL TIMES (June 8, 2023), <https://www.ft.com/content/dede3728-b146-4a51-a6c5-e82f901b6f57>.

<sup>7</sup> Eddie Pells, *LIV Golf-PGA Tour Merger Reignites Not-So-Clean Debate over Sportswashing*, WASH. POST (June 6, 2023), [https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/golf/2023/06/06/liv-pga-sportswashing-saudi-golf/72924f0c-04b5-11ee-b74a-5bdd335d4fa2\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/golf/2023/06/06/liv-pga-sportswashing-saudi-golf/72924f0c-04b5-11ee-b74a-5bdd335d4fa2_story.html); see generally Sarath K. Ganji, *The Rise of Sportswashing*, 34 J. OF DEMOCRACY 62 (2023).

<sup>8</sup> *The High Cost of Change: Repression Under Saudi Crown Prince Tarnishes Reforms*, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH (Nov. 4, 2019), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/11/04/high-cost-change/repression-under-saudi-crown-prince-tarnishes-reforms>.

<sup>9</sup> *PGA TOUR, DP World Tour and PIF Announce Newly Formed Commercial Entity to Unify Golf*, PGA TOUR (June 6, 2023), <https://www.pgatour.com/article/news/latest/2023/06/06/pga-tour-dp-world-tour-and-pif-announce-newly-formed-commercial-entity-to-unify-golf>.

<sup>10</sup> “Records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (text messages, WhatsApp messages, emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

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4. All records produced in response to any inquiry or investigation by any law enforcement or regulatory agency regarding the Agreement and/or LIV Golf's interactions with PGA Tour.
5. All organizational charts reflecting corporate structure, officers, directors, and employees for LIV Golf as it is currently formed, as well as for any new entity formed as a result of the Agreement.

I ask that you carefully review the attached *Procedures for Transmitting Documents to the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations*. Please contact [REDACTED] with the Subcommittee staff at [REDACTED] with any questions. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Blumenthal".

Richard Blumenthal

Chairman

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Ranking Member