

United States Senate

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

March 30, 2026

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Paul Atkins
Chairman
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549

Dear Chairman Atkins:

I write regarding reports that the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) may have exercised preferential treatment for financial partners of President Trump against the advice and warnings of senior staff when the agency declined to litigate credible fraud cases, including against Justin Sun, a key partner in the Trump family’s cryptocurrency ventures.¹

On March 16, 2026, Margaret Ryan, a civil servant who served as the agency’s Director of the Division of Enforcement, left her role after merely six months on the job.² Her departure reportedly came as the Division of Enforcement was pursuing charges for fraud and other misconduct against parties close to President Trump, including Justin Sun, but faced resistance from you and other senior appointees.³ Ms. Ryan’s abrupt departure from the agency raises questions in light of her short tenure and reports that senior leadership intervened to prohibit the Division of Enforcement from pursuing cases against certain cryptocurrency companies.⁴ Indeed, on March 5, 2026, approximately 11 days before Ms. Ryan stepped down from her position, the SEC dismissed fraud charges against Mr. Sun and several of his companies after he agreed to pay a \$10 million fine.⁵

¹ Chris Prentice and Marisa Taylor, *Exclusive: US SEC’s ex-enforcement chief clashed with bosses over Trump cases before leaving, sources say*, REUTERS (Mar. 23, 2026) <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-secs-ex-enforcement-chief-clashed-with-bosses-before-leaving-sources-say-2026-03-23/>; Dawn Kopecki and Chris Prentice, *Exclusive: US SEC’s top cop resigns after just six months on the job*, REUTERS (Mar. 16, 2026) <https://www.reuters.com/>.

² Dawn Kopecki and Chris Prentice, *Exclusive: US SEC’s top cop resigns after just six months on the job*, REUTERS (Mar. 16, 2026) <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-sec-enforcement-director-leave-agency-after-months-job-sources-say-2026-03-16/>.

³ *Id.*; Chris Prentice and Marisa Taylor, *Exclusive: US SEC’s ex-enforcement chief clashed with bosses over Trump cases before leaving, sources say*, REUTERS (Mar. 23, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-secs-ex-enforcement-chief-clashed-with-bosses-before-leaving-sources-say-2026-03-23/>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Dave Michaels and Vicky Ge Huang, *SEC Dismisses Fraud Case Against Crypto Billionaire Justin Sun*, WALL STREET JOURNAL (Mar. 5, 2026). https://www.wsj.com/finance/regulation/sec-dismisses-fraud-case-against-crypto-billionaire-justin-sun-2accb716?gaa_at.

The SEC initially based its 2023 enforcement action against Mr. Sun’s companies, including Tron, on allegations of fraud and market manipulation, wash trading, undisclosed endorsements, and other violations of securities law.⁶ Facing federal prosecution, Mr. Sun began to buy into President Trump’s cryptocurrency ventures, first by purchasing millions of dollars worth of the President’s memecoin, \$TRUMP, which made Sun its largest holder and entitled him to a private dinner with the President.⁷ Mr. Sun and his firms then went on to become an early investor in the Trump family’s larger cryptocurrency venture, World Liberty Financial (WLFI), providing tens of millions in support to WLFI’s governance token and its stablecoin, USD1.⁸

In addition to Mr. Sun’s efforts to curry favor with the President, his company, Tron, is also controversial throughout the crypto ecosystem because of its role in facilitating a disproportionate amount of illicit finance, including money-laundering, sanctions evasion, and terrorism financing.⁹ A report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime revealed that in 2024, the Tether stablecoin on Tron’s blockchain had become “a preferred choice for crypto money launderers in East and Southeast Asia.”¹⁰

Crypto-fueled crime has skyrocketed since President Trump came back into office. In just one year, from 2024 to 2025, illicit finance roughly tripled from \$59 billion to \$154 billion.¹¹ Tron has played an outsized role in this dynamic. While Tron accounts for a third of all payment tokens in the crypto ecosystem by some metrics, 58% of all illicit finance in crypto occurred on Tron’s network in 2024.¹²

This is a clear example of how President Trump’s blatant crypto corruption creates back doors for his family’s business partners, creating a pay-to-play enforcement regime that turns a blind eye to grave threats to national security and consumer protection. As part of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigation’s (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) ongoing inquiry into the illicit use of cryptocurrencies, please provide information and records responsive to the following requests by April 13, 2026.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Angus Berwick, Patricia Kowsmann, and Vicky Ge Huang, *A Crypto Billionaire Who Feared Arrest in the U.S. Returns for Dinner With Trump*, WALL STREET JOURNAL (May 22, 2025) <https://www.wsj.com/finance/currencies/justin-sun-trump-crypto-dinner-7efd5367?mod>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Casinos, Money Laundering, Underground Banking, and Transnational Organized Crime in East and Southeast Asia: A Hidden and Accelerating Threat* (Jan. 2024) https://www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/documents/Publications/2024/Casino_Underground_Banking_Report_2024.pdf.

¹¹ Chainalysis, *Crypto Crime in 2025 Was Primarily Driven by 694% Surge in State-Driven Sanctions Evasion Volume* (Mar. 5, 2026) <https://www.chainalysis.com/blog/crypto-sanctions-2026/>.

¹² Visa, *Stablecoin Supply*, <https://visaonchainanalytics.com/supply> (last accessed Mar. 25, 2026); TRM Labs, *2025 Crypto Crime Report* (Feb. 10, 2025) <https://www.trmlabs.com/reports-and-whitepapers/2025-crypto-crime-report>.

1. All records¹³ and communications¹⁴ between the Division of Enforcement and SEC senior leadership, including but not limited to the Office of the Chairman, since January 20, 2025, referring or relating to potential enforcement actions against cryptocurrency companies, including but not limited to any company owned or affiliated with Justin Sun or Changpeng Zhao, otherwise known as “CZ.”
2. All records and communications sent or received between the Office of the Chairman and any member of the Trump family or Witkoff family, or any agent thereof regarding World Liberty Financial or the \$TRUMP token since January 20, 2025
3. All records relating to the settlement the SEC entered with cryptocurrency companies since January 20, 2025, including but not limited to any company owned by or affiliated with Justin Sun and Changpeng Zhao.
4. Please provide a list of any other enforcement matters between January 20, 2025 and March 16, 2026, in which the Director of the Division of Enforcement’s recommendations for an enforcement matter were overruled by the Office of the Chairman, or any other senior leader of the SEC.

Please contact the Subcommittee should you have any questions about responding to these requests. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

¹³ For purposes of this request, “records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), direct messages, chats, 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).

¹⁴ For purposes of this request, “communications” include any records, as defined above, transmitted in any way between two or more individuals or entities.