

December 9, 2021

Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chairwoman, U.S. House Committee
on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee
on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Investigating Trump-Bolsonaro Connection Regarding Trump Social Media Venture

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer,

I write to you on behalf of non-partisan government watchdog Accountable.US urging you to investigate potential efforts by President Donald J. Trump to deliver Brazil-friendly policies in the waning days of his presidency in exchange for help from key allies of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in getting his recently announced social media venture off the ground.

In September 2021, the special-purpose acquisition company (SPAC) Digital World Acquisition Corp announced that it would take Trump's new social media company, Trump Media & Technology Group, public.¹ Digital World Acquisition Corp was first incorporated in December 2020 — a month after Trump's loss in the 2020 Election but before his departure from office.²

Around the same time Digital World Acquisition Corp was established, in the waning days of Trump's term, he pursued a series of international policies that would aid Bolsonaro's Brazil.

This included Trump striking a trade deal to facilitate commerce between the U.S. and Brazil less than a month before the 2020 Election³ and declaring Brazil a “major non-NATO ally” while removing COVID-19-based travel restrictions in the months before he left office.⁴ Trump also officially endorsed Bolsonaro for re-election in October 2021 — an unusual move for an ex-president.⁵

Notably, Digital World Acquisition Corp's chief financial officer is Luiz Philippe⁶ — a major political ally of the Bolsonaro regime. Philippe was elected in 2018 to Brazil's parliament as a member of Bolsonaro's far-right Social Liberal Party⁷ following speculation during the campaign that he was among those highest in the running to become Bolsonaro's vice president.⁸

Documents from Digital World Acquisition Corp evidence Philippe's involvement in the SPAC since at least when it first filed with the SEC in May 2021, suggesting that he was an early addition to the SPAC's leadership.

The timing of Digital World Acquisition Corp's establishment, Trump's simultaneous pursuit of Bolsonaro-friendly policies, and the hiring of a key Bolsonaro ally at the helm of the SPAC charged with taking Trump's social media company public are highly suspect and raise serious questions about a potential conflict of interest between the Trump administration and the Bolsonaro regime deserving of congressional scrutiny.

Did Trump use the power of his office to arrange a deal with Bolsonaro or top members of Brazil's government to help get his company off the ground in exchange for pushing policies that would benefit

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Bolsonaro? Did Trump discuss plans for his company during official meetings with Bolsonaro or his allies while still in office? What promises, if any, did the former president make to allow a top Bolsonaro ally to head up the firm that would take his new venture public?

Misuse of the highest office in the land for personal gain threatens the very foundation of our nation's democracy. In order to uphold our most fundamental values and do right by the American people, we believe the committee must investigate if, and to what extent, Donald Trump abused his office for his own benefit — along with Bolsonaro's.

If Trump was involved in private efforts to enrich himself after his election loss while still occupying the Oval Office, the American people deserve to know.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Herrig', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kyle Herrig

President, Accountable.US