

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 19, 2017

The Honorable Mike Pence  
Vice President of the United States  
The White House  
Office of the Vice President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Vice President Pence:

We are writing in response to your office's use of taxpayer funding to orchestrate a costly publicity stunt at a National Football League (NFL) game on October 8<sup>th</sup>, an act which was then employed by the Trump-Pence reelection campaign for the purpose of soliciting donations. Given the inappropriate nature of this conduct, we strongly urge you to instruct your campaign to reimburse the Treasury for the full cost of your travel and expenses that day.

As has been widely reported, last Sunday, you made an appearance at an NFL game in Indianapolis, but left immediately following the playing of our national anthem. Your aides told members of the traveling press corps that you did so in response to peaceful protests by a growing number of NFL players against racial injustice in America, which you apparently find distasteful.

Yet, media reports indicate that pool reporters were advised not to leave their vehicles and enter the stadium, consistent with normal procedures, but instead were told to wait in case of an "early departure." This strongly suggests that your truncated visit was not a spontaneous act of protest—as you have sought to portray it—but was instead a premeditated act conducted solely for the purpose of generating publicity. In fact, President Trump confirmed as much when he posted on Twitter that he told you beforehand to stage this protest if any players kneeled.

At the very least, Congress and the American people deserve to know how much public funding was spent on this trip and whether Trump-Pence campaign officials were made aware of your intention to leave the game early. To that end, we urgently request full disclosure of the cost of your travel to and from the game as well as any and all communications between your staff and campaign personnel related to this matter.

However, while such disclosures are a necessary step, we believe that preserving the integrity of the Office of the Vice President demands that you go further. That is why we urge you to reimburse the Treasury for the full cost of your trip. Flying across the country and back at taxpayer expense simply to enter and then immediately depart a football stadium serves no discernible public interest. Instead, the fact that your campaign immediately sought to capitalize on this exercise in order to solicit donations leaves the distinct impression that this trip was purely political in nature and was unrelated to your official duties.

The health of our democracy requires that taxpayer funding is not used for campaign purposes. Again, given the appearance of serious impropriety in this matter, we request that you instruct the Trump-Pence campaign to immediately reimburse the Treasury for the full cost of your wasteful, unnecessary trip to Indianapolis.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



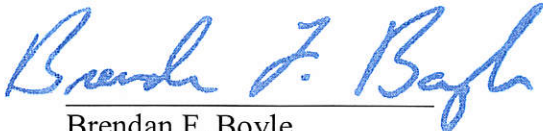
Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress