

EXHIBIT A



**DEMOCRACY
FORWARD
FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 34553
Washington, DC 20043
202-448-9090
foia@democracyforward.org

June 19, 2017

Michael Toland, Ph.D.
Departmental Freedom of Information Officer
Office of Privacy and Open Government
14th and Constitution Avenue NW
Mail Stop 52010FB
Washington, DC 20230

Phone: 202-482-3842
Fax: 202-482-0827
Email: mtoland@doc.gov

Re: Freedom of Information Act Records Request

Dear Dr. Toland:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552 *et seq.*, and the Department of Commerce FOIA regulations at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, Democracy Forward Foundation makes the following request for records.

The Trump administration has repeatedly stated that infrastructure renewal is a major priority and has proposed the use of federal incentives to spur private financing. Recently, Blackstone Group announced a major initiative to invest in American infrastructure by leveraging a \$20 billion investment from a sovereign wealth fund controlled by Saudi Arabia¹. Blackstone Group LP is led by Stephen Schwarzman, who also leads the administration’s Strategy and Policy forum². Given concerns over foreign control over American infrastructure and potential cronyism by the Trump administration, we are requesting all records – as detailed below – related to recently announced infrastructure proposals, infrastructure investors connected to the Trump administration, and outside infrastructure advisers to the administration.

Democracy Forward Foundation requests that the Department of Commerce produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

¹<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-05-20/blackstone-plans-to-invest-100-billion-in-infrastructure-deals>

²<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-02-08/steve-schwarzman-explains-why-he-counsels-trump>

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1. Any and all records that refer or relate to the Saudi-US CEO Summit that took place in Saudi Arabia on May 20, 2017³. This includes, but is not limited to, any records that refer or relate to: (i) the Public Investment Fund (PIF); (ii) Mohammed bin Salman; or (iii) preparatory work or planning for the Saudi-US CEO Summit conducted by the Department of Transportation.
2. Any and all records that refer or relate to the Blackstone Group LP. This includes, but is not limited to: (i) any and all records from or to Blackstone Group LP employees; and (ii) any and all records that refer or relate to Stephen Schwarzman, Sean Klimczak, or Transmission Developers Inc.
3. Any and all records that refer or relate to Goldman Sachs and its employees. This includes, but is not limited to: (i) any and all records from or to Goldman Sachs employees; and (ii) any and all records that refer or relate to Goldman Sachs Infrastructure Partners, GS Infrastructure Partners, GSIP, or GS Global Infrastructure Fund.
4. Any and all records that refer or relate to Global Infrastructure Partners (or GIP). This includes, but is not limited to: (i) any and all records from or to Global Infrastructure Partners (or GIP) employees; and (ii) any and all records that refer or relate to Adebayo Ogunlesi⁴.
5. Any and all records that refer or relate to CG/LA Infrastructure Inc. This includes, but is not limited to: (i) any and all records from or to CG/LA Infrastructure Inc. employees; and (ii) any and all records that refer or relate to Norman Anderson⁵.
6. Any and all records that refer or relate to Boston Consulting Group (“BCG”). This includes, but is not limited to: (i) any and all records from or to Boston Consulting Group (“BCG”) employees; and (ii) any records that refer or relate to Mark Freedman, or Jeff Hill⁶.

The time period for this request is January 20, 2017, to the date the search is conducted.

³ <http://sausceoforum.com/home/>

⁴ <http://venturesafrica.com/adebayo-ogunlesi-nigerian-billionaire-join-trump-cabinet/>

⁵ <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/white-house/article128794374.html>

⁶

<https://www.bcg.com/publications/2017/engineered-products-project-business-maximizing-job-creation-impact-trillion-infrastructure-spending.aspx>

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Please search for records regardless of format or medium, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical materials. This request includes, without limitation, all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, calendar entries, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, minutes, or audio or video recordings of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Furthermore, given the Managing Government Records Directive and policies such as Capstone, Democracy Forward Foundation requests searches of all the most complete repositories of information maintained by the department alongside with custodian driven searches. Do not omit searches of files or records maintained personally by any officials, including personal email accounts.

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

If requested records are located in, or originated in, another agency, department, office, installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate entity.

To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond to this request in writing within 20 working days as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period. If all relevant records are not produced within that time period, we are entitled to a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

Democracy Forward Foundation is a nonprofit organization organized under Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) and dedicated to educating the public about the operation of the federal

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government. The records we obtain from this request will be used to support those public education efforts, and we intend to disseminate publicly an analysis of those records. As a nonprofit organization, we do not have a commercial interest in the records. We therefore request a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records in response to this request under the exception at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), which requires waiver of fees if the disclosure is “in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” If our request for a waiver is denied, we are willing to pay all reasonable fees incurred for searching and duplicating records in responding to this request, up to \$250. If the costs of responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within the 20 day period, please contact Karianne Jones as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org or (202) 448-9090.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karianne U. Jones", enclosed in a thin rectangular border.

Karianne Jones
Democracy Forward Foundation