

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 3, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
Department of State

Dear Secretary Blinken:

Based on recent reports, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry, filed his financial disclosure forms and they show that he has divested certain assets as a condition of his employment at the State Department.¹ In addition, reports indicate that Mr. Kerry has signed an ethics pledge barring him from participating in specific policy matters that would create a conflict with his former clients and employers. However, it's unclear exactly what matters Mr. Kerry has been barred from working on and whether he has received any waivers for specific matters that he would otherwise be recused from.

The operation of good government requires faithful adherence to ethical rules. In order to better determine which matters Mr. Kerry has a potential or actual conflict with and which matters he has been recused from, and to determine the steps the Department has taken to prevent potential or actual conflicts, please provide the following no later than May 17, 2021:

1. All records, including memoranda, emails and other similar documents, relating to all evaluations of potential, apparent and/or actual conflicts of interest;
2. All matters that Mr. Kerry is recused from; and
3. All exemptions or waivers issued to Mr. Kerry concerning potential, apparent and/or actual conflicts of interest.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Josh Flynn-Brown of my Judiciary Committee staff at 202-224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

¹ Lachlan Markay, *John Kerry discloses millions in income from finance, energy firms*, Axios (April 30, 2021).