

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

October 1, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

In recent months, I have been made aware of concerns regarding inappropriate uses of an official position by the current U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Kimberly Guilfoyle. These have included concerns that Ambassador Guilfoyle has improperly advocated on behalf of a foreign company and provided unfettered access for a registered lobbyist to attend official U.S. Government meetings. Such actions do not serve U.S. credibility overseas and risk undermining U.S. diplomacy. In advance of your upcoming travel to Greece, I request an immediate review of Ambassador Guilfoyle's actions, and a clarification of what steps have and will be taken to avoid undue influence and even the appearance of a conflict of interest.

The State Department has a responsibility to ensure that U.S. taxpayer resources and U.S. embassies are used to advance the interests of the United States—which include acting as an impartial advocate on behalf of all U.S. business interests. I am troubled, however, by reporting the Committee has received, as well as public reporting, that a private individual and registered lobbyist for a number of Greek companies, Christos Marafatsos, has repeatedly accompanied Ambassador Guilfoyle in official government meetings.¹ This blurs the lines regarding what is official U.S. government business and raises questions about whether Mr. Marafatsos' private-sector role was properly disclosed to participants in meetings. It also appears that Ambassador Guilfoyle may have explicitly advocated on behalf of a foreign company in discussions with foreign governments.²

I am also concerned that Ambassador Guilfoyle seems to be following the troubling trend of U.S. Ambassadors engaging in the domestic politics of foreign governments, particularly in the countries of our closest partners and allies. Reports indicate that Ambassador Guilfoyle referred to the impending collapse of the Romanian government at a March 18, 2026 dinner and told Greece's Energy Minister, "We can do that to any country we want. We can do that here."³ Shortly thereafter, Ambassador Guilfoyle traveled to Bucharest and met with leaders of Romania's Social Democratic Party (PSD), including its chairman and then-energy minister to promote the Vertical Gas Corridor and increased purchases of U.S. liquefied natural gas. The PSD later withdrew from Romania's governing coalition and voted to bring down Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan's government.⁴

¹ Rebecca Ballhaus, "The Mystery Man Shadowing Kimberly Guilfoyle as She Pushes Deals Across Europe," *The Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 25, 2026.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Marton Dunai and Eleni Varvitsioti, "Donald Trump's ambassador to Greece causes stir in Romania," *Financial Times*, Sept. 29, 2026.

As these actions risk undermining the credibility of U.S. government officials working abroad on behalf of U.S. national security interests and the American people, I request that in addition to a review of these instances, the Department provides a prompt response to the following:

1. Does Mr. Marafatsos have an official role at U.S. Embassy Greece? Has he been authorized by the State Department to participate in meetings involving foreign government officials? If not, has the Department taken any action or provided any guidance to Ambassador Guilfoyle regarding the participation of lobbyists for foreign entities in U.S. government meetings?
2. Has the Department conducted a conflict-of-interest review regarding Mr. Marafatsos' financial interests, and if so, what was the outcome of that review?
3. Did Mr. Marafatsos or Ambassador Guilfoyle disclose Mr. Marafatsos' clients and financial interests to the other meeting participants and to relevant State Department personnel?
4. How many official U.S. government meetings, trips, or engagements has Mr. Marafatsos participated in? Were foreign officials informed that he was not a representative of the United States Government and were all Department ethics requirements followed?
5. Has Ambassador Guilfoyle accepted transportation, hospitality or other items of value from Aktor, its officers or employees, Mr. Marafatsos, or any other private entities?

The United States has a legitimate interest in expanding American exports and strengthening U.S. economic interests overseas. Those objectives must be pursued consistent with federal law and ethics requirements and with the fundamental principle that American diplomats represent the interests of the United States—not the private interests of certain companies or their paid lobbyists.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations