

RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS, CHAIR

DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT
MAZIE K. HIRONO, HAWAII
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY
ALEX PADILLA, CALIFORNIA
JON OSSOFF, GEORGIA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
MICHAEL S. LEE, UTAH
TED CRUZ, TEXAS
JOSH HAWLEY, MISSOURI
TOM COTTON, ARKANSAS
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

May 8, 2023

Rod Ward, CEO
Corporation Service Company
Registered Agent
Topridge Holdings, LLC
251 Little Falls Dr.
Wilmington, DE 19808

Susan K. Jackman
Director
Topridge Holdings, LLC New York Branch
80 State St.
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mr. Ward and Ms. Jackman:

It has been publicly reported that Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas accepted the gift of free lodging on numerous occasions over the last two decades at Topridge Camp, owned by Topridge Holdings, LLC.¹ We write to request information regarding the other guests who stayed at Topridge Camp during the dates when Justice Thomas accepted lodging at Topridge Camp.

According to recent reports, individuals who may have had business interests or other interests before the Supreme Court have been able to gain personal and private access to Justices during occasions where Justices have accepted gifts of lodging and travel.² These occasions include Justice Thomas's stays at Topridge Camp.³ Regardless of the intentions behind these stays, if these gifts to Justice Thomas enabled those with interests before the Court to have private access to a Justice, it is a matter of significant public concern. Furthermore, Justice Thomas's repeated failure to disclose such gifts allowed those with interests before the Court access without public scrutiny.

The appearance of special access to the Justices—that is not available to all Americans—is corrosive to the legitimacy of the Court because, at minimum, it creates an appearance of undue influence that undermines the public's trust in the Court's impartiality. These revelations come at a time when public confidence in the Court is already at an all-time low, with only 37 percent of Americans reporting confidence in the Court.⁴

¹ *See, e.g.*, Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott, & Alex Mierjeski, [Clarence Thomas and the Billionaire](#), PROPUBLICA (Apr. 6, 2023)

² *Id.*

³ Lodging provided by a corporate entity, rather than an individual, is explicitly ineligible for the “personal hospitality” exception under the Ethics in Government Act (EIGA). *See* 16 U.S.C. § 13101(14) (defining “personal hospitality” as “hospitality extended for a nonbusiness purpose by an individual, **not a corporation or organization**, at the personal residence of that individual or the individual’s family or on property owned by that individual or the individual’s family”) (emphasis added).

⁴ *See* Marist, *Poll National Adults, Interviews conducted April 17th through April 19th* (Apr. 24, 2023), available at <https://maristpoll.marist.edu/polls/medication-abortion-and-the-u-s-supreme-court/>.

Maintaining faith in the impartiality of the federal judiciary is a necessary prerequisite for preserving the rule of law. In the absence of action by the Supreme Court to address shortcomings in its ethical standards and practices, Congress must act to restore faith in the Court by passing legislation that addresses those shortcomings. The Senate Judiciary Committee has jurisdiction over such legislation, and the information requested by this letter will help clarify the full scope of ethical concerns that the legislation must address. For these reasons, please provide the following information as soon as possible, but no later than May 22, 2023:

1. Please identify all of the dates when Justice Thomas, or any other Justice of the Supreme Court, has been a guest at Topridge Camp.
2. For every time period responsive to Question 1, please identify the full name of each guest at Topridge Camp whose stay overlapped with a Justice. For guests who were under the age of 18 at the time of their stay, their names may be redacted.
3. For each guest identified in response to Question 2, please identify whether the guest paid for the guest's stay at Topridge Camp or if the stay was provided to the guest as a gift from Topridge Holdings, LLC.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
Chair



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



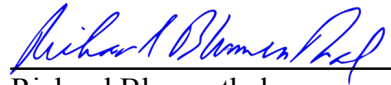
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member