United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6075

February 4, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent:

I write to request that the U.S. Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) terminate its $20 billion bailout of Argentina’s financial markets.

In September 2025, you announced your intent to use the Exchange Stabilization Fund (“ESF”) to prop up the financial markets of Argentina.[1] Over the course of 2025, Argentina’s financial markets experienced significant turmoil.[2] This turmoil boded poorly for Argentina’s President, Javier Milei, whose party faced a crucial midterm election on October 26, 2025.[3] President Milei, an ally and personal friend[4] of President Trump’s, needed help—and the Trump Administration provided it. In mid-October 2025, the Treasury Department entered into a $20 billion exchange stabilization agreement (ESA) with the Central Bank of Argentina and, “[p]ursuant to that ESA … executed a swap transaction whereby the [Central Bank] exchanged pesos for $2.5 billion.”[5] President Trump characterized this agreement as contingent on President Milei’s retaining power: “If he loses,” Mr. Trump said, “we are not going to be generous with Argentina.”[6] Mr. Milei’s party won on October 26, in large part due to the bailout and President Trump’s threat to turn off the spigot if Argentine voters defied his wishes.[7]

---

[1] Post on X by Secretary Scott Bessent, September 22, 2025, https://x.com/SecScottBessent/status/1970107351912075454; Post on X by Secretary Scott Bessent, September 22, 2025, https://x.com/SecScottBessent/status/1970108240311587014.
[2] El País, “Milei’s fall from grace: Argentina’s stock market becomes the world’s worst performer in 2025,” Álvaro Sánchez, September 20, 2025, https://english.elpais.com/economy-and-business/2025-09-20/mileis-fall-from-grace-argentinas-stock-market-becomes-the-worlds-worst-performer-in-2025.html.
[3] The Guardian, “Argentinians deliver electoral blow to Milei’s scandal-rocked government,” Tiago Rogero, September 8, 2025, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/sep/08/argentina-election-javier-milei.
[4] The New York Times, “How to Become Trump’s ‘Favorite President’: Nonstop Praise,” Jack Nicas, April 3, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/03/world/americas/argentina-javier-milei-trump.html.
[5] U.S. Department of the Treasury, “Exchange Stabilization Fund Balance Sheet,” as of December 31, 2025, https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/206/ESF-December-2025-FS-Trunc-Notes.pdf.
[6] New York Times, “Trump Dangles $20 Billion Lifeline for Argentina, With Strings Attached,” Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Alan Rappeport, October 14, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/14/us/politics/trump-argentina-leader-bailout.html.

I have repeatedly requested specific details of the Treasury Department's ESA with the Central Bank of Argentina.[8] You have repeatedly failed to provide them.[9] Most recently, on December 17, 2025, I requested a copy of the existing ESA between the Treasury Department and the Central Bank of Argentina; transaction details regarding direct peso purchases executed by the ESF in October 2025; and transaction details regarding the Special Drawing Rights sold to Argentina in October 2025.[10] The Treasury Department did not provide meaningful responses to these requests.

Instead, the Treasury Department—in a January 20, 2026 letter—asserted that "Treasury deployed the ESF … to stabilize Argentina in a moment of acute, short-term, and urgent illiquidity pressure on both exchange rate and financial stability."[11] It also stated: "Argentina has both quickly and fully repaid its limited draw on the swap facility with the United States, such that the ESF currently does not hold any pesos."[12] A report on the ESF's balance sheet as of December 31, 2025—released just days ago[13]—similarly states that the "in December 2025," the Central Bank of Argentina "fully repaid the $2.5 billion and the swap transaction was closed."[14]

Notably missing from Treasury's January 20 response and its December 2025 balance sheet report, however, is any confirmation that its ESA with Argentina has actually been terminated.[15] Though the initial $2.5 billion draw has been "closed," the $20 billion line of credit for the Central Bank of Argentina appears to still be in effect.[16] Indeed, the Treasury Department's assertion that "[n]o drawings are outstanding under this agreement" implies the agreement is still

[7] The Guardian, "Trump's bailout threat may have been key to Milei's electoral triumph in Argentina," Tom Phillips, October 27, 2025, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/oct/27/trump-javier-mileis-electoral-triumph-argentina.

[8] *See* Letter from Senators Warren and Shaheen to Secretary Bessent, December 17, 2025, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/argentina_letter.pdf; Letter from Senator Warren to Secretary Bessent, November 6, 2025, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/follow_up_letter_to_bessent_re_argentina_private_investment.pdf; Letter from Senator Warren to Secretary Bessent, September 22, 2025, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_letter_to_bessent_on_argentina.pdf.

[9] Letter from Secretary Bessent to Senator Warren, October 21, 2025, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/treasury_argentina_response.pdf; Letter from Mason Champion, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of the Treasury, to Senator Warren, January 20, 2026, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_responseto20261217warrenshaheen.pdf.

[10] Letter from Senators Warren and Shaheen to Secretary Scott Bessent, December 17, 2025, https://www.banking.senate.gov/newsroom/minority/ranking-members-warren-and-shaheen-press-trump-administration-for-transparency-on-20-billion-argentina-bailout.

[11] Letter from Mason Champion, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of the Treasury, to Senator Warren, January 20, 2026, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_responseto20261217warrenshaheen.pdf.

[12] *Id.*

[13] 31 U.S.C. § 5302(c)(1)

[14] U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Exchange Stabilization Fund Balance Sheet," as of December 31, 2025, https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/206/ESF-December-2025-FS-Trunc-Notes.pdf.

[15] *Id.;* Letter from Mason Champion, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of the Treasury, to Senator Warren, January 20, 2026, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_responseto20261217warrenshaheen.pdf.

[16] U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Exchange Stabilization Fund Balance Sheet," as of December 31, 2025, https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/206/ESF-December-2025-FS-Trunc-Notes.pdf.

in force and the money is still available for Argentina to borrow.[17] Despite Treasury's assertion that its use of the ESF was for an "acute, short-term, and urgent" purpose, it appears—by leaving the ESA in place—to have left open the possibility of continued use of the ESF in Argentina well after the October 2025 elections.

Therefore, I again ask that you provide a copy of Treasury's Exchange Stabilization Agreement with the Central Bank of Argentina, and written confirmation that it has been terminated, no later than February 12, 2026.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs

[17] *Id.*