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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

September 22, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Bessent:

I am writing to request information on President Trump's plans to bail out Argentina's financial markets and foreign investors using America's resources. At a time when Americans are struggling to afford groceries, rent, credit card bills, and other debt payments – and with the Administration gutting funds that make health care affordable for tens of millions of people here at home – it is deeply troubling that the President intends to use significant emergency funds to inflate the value of a foreign government's currency and bolster its financial markets. President Trump's close personal relationship with President Milei, and the timing of this bailout ahead of a critical October 26 midterm election in Argentina, raise serious concerns that the purpose of this bailout is personal and political – and comes at the expense of the American people.

Argentina's financial markets are currently experiencing significant turmoil. Foreign investors appear to have lost confidence in the country's outlook due to ongoing corruption scandals and waning public support for Milei's regime.<sup>1</sup> The country's currency, sovereign debt market, and stock market have all experienced sell-offs this year, with acute declines in recent weeks.<sup>2</sup> This morning, you announced that Argentina is a "systemically important U.S. ally in Latin America" and that Treasury is ready to engage in "swap lines, direct currency purchases, and purchases of U.S. dollar-denominated government debt from Treasury's Exchange Stabilization Fund" to stabilize the country's currency and bolster its financial markets.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> Financial Times, "Argentina spends \$1bn to defend peso as President Javier Milei's crisis spirals," Ciara Nugent, September 19, 2025, <https://www.ft.com/content/270d9987-9b42-4ccf-83e8-cb6fe57faab7>; El País, "Milei's fall from grace: Argentina's stock market becomes the world's worst performer in 2025," Álvaro Sánchez.

<sup>3</sup> 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>.

It is not clear what constitutes a “systemically important” ally, and you have not provided any economic justification as to why a sell-off of the Argentine peso and distress in the country’s financial markets pose a direct threat to the health of the American economy. The Treasury Department retains extraordinary powers under the Gold Reserve Act of 1934 to deploy the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF) for foreign exchange interventions and credit provision.<sup>4</sup> Congress, however, intended for these authorities to be invoked judiciously to advance the national interest. Stabilizing Argentina’s currency and bailing out its financial markets does not appear to meet that bar. This financial support could disproportionately reward hedge funds that executed what *The Wall Street Journal* described as the trade-of-the-year in 2024: “Betting on Argentina’s Chain-Saw-Wielding President.”<sup>5</sup>

What is clear is that President Javier Milei is a close personal friend of President Trump and an ideological ally of the Administration. President Trump referred to Milei as his “favorite [P]resident,”<sup>6</sup> invited him to attend the 2025 inauguration onstage,<sup>7</sup> hosted him at Mar-a-Lago,<sup>8</sup> and has prioritized Argentina’s re-entry into a special visa program.<sup>9</sup> Milei has been an avid supporter of President Trump, fiercely aligning with him on various policy matters, lavishing him with praise at every opportunity, and mimicking his personal crypto ventures.<sup>10</sup> Milei faces a crucial midterm election on October 26. Argentina’s ongoing financial turmoil threatens his party’s electoral prospects, especially given recent defeats at the local level.<sup>11</sup>

I understand why President Milei, careening from crisis to crisis and unable to effectively manage the Argentinian economy, wants the American people to finance a bailout. I do not understand why it is in the interest of the United States to provide one, nor how one would be designed to ensure the best outcomes for the Argentinian people, instead of hedge fund investors.

To help me understand why U.S. taxpayers may be asked to bail out Argentina’s financial markets, please respond to the following questions by Friday, September 26, 2025:

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<sup>4</sup> 31 U.S. Code § 5302

<sup>5</sup> The Wall Street Journal, “The Hedge-Fund Trade of the Year: Betting on Argentina’s Chain-Saw-Wielding President,” Caitlin McCabe, December 26, 2024, <https://www.wsj.com/finance/investing/argentina-economy-stock-index-growth-milei-51b6253f>.

<sup>6</sup> El País, “Trump tells Milei: ‘You are my favorite president’ in first call since US election,” Frederico Rivas Molina, November 13, 2024, <https://english.elpais.com/international/2024-11-13/trump-tells-milei-you-are-my-favorite-president-in-first-call-since-us-election.html>.

<sup>7</sup> The New York Times, “A Closer Look at Who Attended President Donald J. Trump’s Second Inauguration,” Jon Huang and others, January 20, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/01/20/us/politics/trump-inauguration-attendees.html>.

<sup>8</sup> 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>.

<sup>9</sup> The Washington Post, “In move to lift Argentina visa restrictions, Trump rewards Milei’s friendship,” Teo Armus and Hannah Natanson, July 31, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/07/30/argentina-trump-milei-visa-waiver-program-kristi-noem/>.

<sup>10</sup> The New York Times, “How to Become Trump’s ‘Favorite President’: Nonstop Praise,” Jack Nicas; The New York Times, “Milei, \$Melania and Memecoins: Unraveling Argentina’s Crypto Fiasco,” Jack Nicas and David Yaffe-Bellany, February 28, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/28/world/americas/argentina-crypto-scandal-president.html>.

<sup>11</sup> 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>.

1. What is the Treasury Department's criteria for determining whether an ally is "systemically important"?
2. What is the impact of Argentina's financial market turmoil on American jobs, workers' wages, and U.S. financial stability? Please provide evidence of any such impact.
3. Please provide the Administration's legal analysis that deploying the ESF to bail out Argentina's financial markets complies with the Gold Reserve Act of 1934.
4. President Milei thanked you and President Trump for "unconditional support."<sup>12</sup>
  - a. What is the scale and conditionality of the U.S. financial support currently under consideration?
  - b. What is the expected cost to the U.S. taxpayer?
5. Have any hedge funds or other market participants reached out to you, or any other Administration officials, advocating for intervention in Argentina's financial markets? If so, please provide a list of the market participants and a description of the conversations.
6. What communication, if any, has the Treasury Department had with President Milei or officials from the Argentinian government regarding the current state of Argentina's financial markets? Please provide a list of individuals with whom the Department has communicated and a description of the conversations.

Sincerely,



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

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<sup>12</sup> The New York Times, "U.S. Pledges Support for Argentina's Economy and a Trump Ally in Crisis," Alan Rappeport and Colby Smith, September 22, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/22/us/politics/us-argentina-bessent-javier-milei.html>.