

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 8, 2026

The Honorable Michael S. Selig
Chairman
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
1155 21st Street NW
Washington, DC 20581

Dear Chairman Selig:

Recent reporting indicates that prediction market platforms may be enabling individuals to profit from advance knowledge of war, military escalation, and sensitive foreign policy decisions. In some cases, trading tied to potential conflict has been so precise and profitable that it raises serious alarms about whether market participants are using nonpublic or classified information for personal profit. If true, this raises not only market integrity concerns, but also serious national security and ethics risks.

This is not a theoretical fear. Recent reporting has identified accounts that placed highly accurate, high-volume bets tied to war in Iran that appear unusually well-timed and highly profitable.¹ These nine accounts reportedly placed over 80 bets on the war in Iran, winning 98% of their bets and over \$2.4 million, a success rate likely impossible without the use of nonpublic or classified information about the war.² Given the weak safeguards, opaque governance, and minimal accountability on these platforms, the public has a right to know whether participants may have used their access to nonpublic or privileged information to profit. This highly suspicious betting is happening at the same time when disclosures involving President Donald Trump and other senior officials have intensified fears about the misuse of privileged information for personal financial gain.

Taken together, these point to a dangerous gap in fairness and oversight. Markets tied to war and government action create a perverse incentive structure for those with the most sensitive information to profit the most. That risk is unacceptable, which is why I urge you to conduct further scrutiny of these platforms to protect against corruption, address platform governance vulnerabilities, and strengthen safeguards against market manipulation.

As the sponsors of legislation to ban wagering on government actions, terrorism, war, assassination, and events where an individual knows or controls the outcome,³ we are particularly worried that existing regulatory frameworks may not adequately address the unique risks posed by event contracts tied to real-world crises.

¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/betting-on-iran-war-insider-trading-concerns-prediction-markets-60-minutes/>

² <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/betting-on-iran-war-insider-trading-concerns-prediction-markets-60-minutes/>

³ H.R.7955, the BETS OFF Act.

Given the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's (CFTC) role in overseeing derivatives and event contract markets, we request information on the following:

1. Has the CFTC opened any investigations into trading on prediction markets tied to war, military action, or foreign policy decisions? If so, when and what is their status?
2. Has the CFTC identified any trading patterns consistent with the use of material nonpublic information or coordinated manipulation?
3. Have any federal officials, political appointees, contractors, or individuals with access to sensitive government information been flagged or referred to for potential misconduct?
4. What concrete safeguards currently prevent individuals with access to classified or market-moving information from participating in these markets?
5. Has the CFTC reviewed trading activity related to recent geopolitical flashpoints, including Iran? What were the findings?
6. What coordination has occurred with the Department of Justice, Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Government Ethics, or intelligence agencies on these risks?
7. Does the CFTC believe it currently has sufficient authority to police or prohibit these markets? If not, what specific authorities are lacking?
8. Why are markets that allow participants to profit from war and government action still accessible under the current regulatory regime?

Financial markets should not function as betting platforms for war, nor as vehicles for those with inside access to cash in on global instability. Ensuring that these markets cannot be exploited for private gain at the expense of public trust is essential.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and request a response by June 22, 2026.

Sincerely,



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress