

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2017

The Honorable James B. Comey, Jr.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20535

Dear Director Comey:

We write today to ask you to respond to several previous inquiries and confirm that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating a connection between the Russian government and President-Elect Donald Trump.

On August 30, 2016, the Ranking Members of several House committees wrote to ask you whether the FBI was investigating any of the reported connections between the Russian government and its proxies and Donald Trump's presidential campaign.¹ To date, your office has provided no response.

On September 28, 2016, during a House Judiciary Committee hearing, Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) asked: "Is the FBI investigating the activities of Mr. Trump or any adviser to the Trump campaign with respect to any line of communication between the campaign and the Russian government?" You declined to answer the question.²

During that same hearing, Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) noted your extensive public comments on the investigation into Secretary Clinton's use of a private email server. He asked: "Is there a different standard for Secretary Clinton and Donald Trump?" You responded: "No. Our standard is we do not confirm or deny the existence of investigations. There is an exception for that: when there is a need for the public to be reassured; when it is obvious it is apparent, given our activities, public activities, that the investigation is ongoing."³

¹ Letter from John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, *et al.*, to James B. Comey, Jr., Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Aug. 30, 2016).

² *Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 114th Cong. 37 (2016) (Questioning by John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary).

³ *Id.* (Questioning by Rep. Jerrold Nadler).

On December 20, 2016, Ranking Member Conyers and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) wrote you with two specific requests. First, they asked that you confirm the existence of an investigation into the recent activities of the Russian government. Second, they asked that you provide the House Judiciary Committee with copies of “all relevant investigative materials . . . including copies of any primary evidence or interview notes” at the conclusion of any such investigation.⁴ These materials would, of course, parallel those you provided to the Committee and other offices at the conclusion of your investigation into Secretary Clinton. To date, your office has provided no response to our request.

On January 10, 2017, during an open hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) referenced comments by a senior Russian diplomat suggesting contact between the Russian government and the Trump campaign.⁵ Sen. Wyden then asked you: “Has the FBI investigated these reported relationships and, if so, what are the agencies finding?” You responded: “I would never comment on investigations, whether we have one or not, *in an open forum* like this.”⁶

Finally, late on January 10, 2017, breaking reports suggested that Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) personally handed you a file that allegedly documents secret contacts between the Trump organization and the Russian government.⁷ Other reports suggest that the Department of Justice and the FBI attempted to target four associates of Donald Trump for electronic surveillance under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act—and eventually obtained a warrant from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court on at least one of those targets in October 2016.⁸

We respect the longstanding tradition of the FBI to decline from commenting about ongoing criminal investigations—but, using your own words, there is now a clear and pressing need for the public to be reassured about the President Elect, and it is “obvious and apparent,” given these reports and the public activities of the FBI, that an investigation of some nature is ongoing. Your own standard for public comment on this matter has been met.

We therefore request confirmation that the FBI is investigating any connection between the Russian government and Donald Trump, his business, or the Trump presidential campaign.

⁴ Letter from John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, and Sheila Jackson Lee, Ranking Member, H. SubComm. on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations to James B. Comey, Jr., Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Aug. 30, 2016).

⁵ Ivan Nechepurenko, *Russian Officials Were in Contact With Trump Allies, Diplomat Says*, N.Y. TIMES, (Nov. 10, 2016).

⁶ Austin Wright and Martin Matinshak, *Comey won't say if FBI is investigating contacts between Moscow, Trump campaign*, POLITICO (Jan. 10, 2017) (emphasis ours).

⁷ Greg Miller et al., *Intelligence chiefs briefed Trump and Obama on unconfirmed claims Russia has compromising information on president-elect*, WASH. POST (Jul. 10, 2016).


⁸ Julian Borger, *John McCain passes dossier alleging secret Trump-Russia contacts to FBI*, GUARDIAN (Jan. 10, 2016).

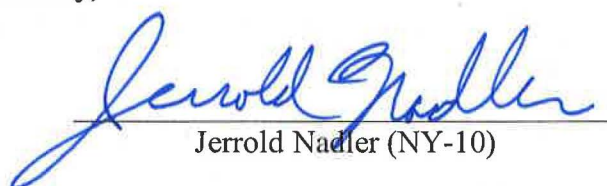
We also request that the FBI provide the House Judiciary Committee with all documentation relevant to this investigation as soon as possible. If additional and relevant evidence becomes available to the FBI over time, we ask that you provide us with those updated materials as well.

If, as your comments suggest, you are able to be more forthcoming in a secure setting, then we ask you to arrange a classified briefing for our members and staff as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr. (MI-13)


Jerrold Nadler (NY-10)


Zoe Lofgren (CA-19)

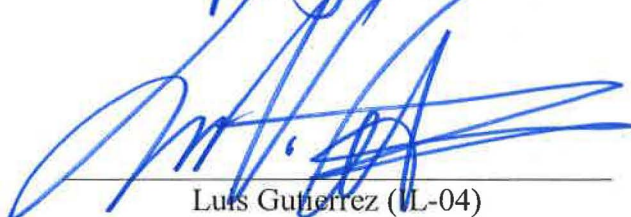

Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18)


Steve Cohen (TN-09)

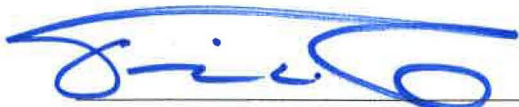

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. (GA-04)


Judy Chu (CA-27)

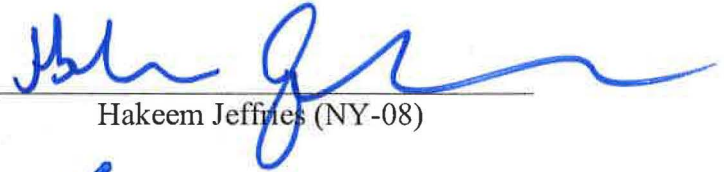

Ted Deutch (FL-22)


Luis Guterrez (IL-04)


Karen Bass (CA-37)



Cedric Richmond (LA-02)



Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08)



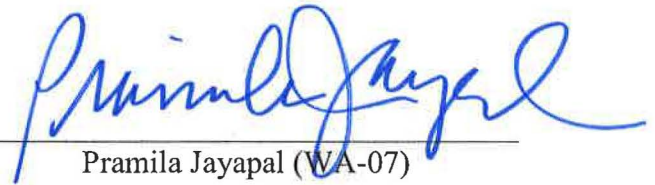
David N. Cicilline (RI-01)



Eric Swalwell (CA-15)



Ted Lieu (CA-33)



Pramila Jayapal (WA-07)



Jamie Raskin (MD-08)