

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2019

The Honorable William Barr
Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530


Dear Attorney General Barr,

As the Chairs of the Armed Services, Intelligence, and Foreign Affairs Committees of the House of Representatives, we write to underscore the vital national security interests at stake in providing Congress with Special Counsel Mueller's full, unredacted report and all underlying and related evidence and materials produced in the course of the investigation.

The United States faces an ongoing, extensively documented threat from the government of the Russian Federation in its use of influence operations to undermine U.S. national security interests and particularly our democratic system of government. These efforts are part of a broad strategy by Vladimir Putin to undermine the rule of law and faith in democratic institutions globally. In order to learn from Russia's actions in the 2016 election and protect the United States in time for the upcoming elections, we need this information as soon as possible. Our committees are making policy and resource decisions related to deterrence, national security policy, election security and hardening our election infrastructure, strengthening our country's cybersecurity, improving our country's intelligence and counterintelligence posture, and helping our allies abroad to combat similar Russian behavior in their own countries. Identifying gaps and lessons learned from a thorough analysis of all facets of Russia's multi-pronged operation is fundamental to ensuring that our Committees have the information we need to legislate and conduct effective oversight in our respective areas of jurisdiction.

There is no more important task than safeguarding our country's democratic process. To discharge our constitutionally required responsibilities and protect our country moving forward, it is crucial that we learn from the Russian activities covered by the Special Counsel's investigation. With the Special Counsel's fact-gathering work now concluded, the Congress has a duty to make informed legislative, oversight, and authorization and appropriations decisions to safeguard the country. It is therefore essential for U.S. national security interests that the Department of Justice comply immediately with the joint request by the Chairs of the House Committees on the Judiciary, Oversight and Reform, Intelligence, Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, and Ways and Means.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services



Eliot L. Engel
Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



Adam Schiff
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence