

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC 20515-6216

One Hundred Sixteenth Congress

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler:

On November 12, 14, 18, 21, and 30, I wrote you asking specific questions about the process the House Judiciary Committee will use to bring some legitimacy to this “impeachment inquiry” launched by Democrats alone. During the markup on November 21, I asked you to keep me apprised of the process.¹ Every letter and nearly every question remains unanswered, with only 48 hours before our first hearing to consider the impeachment of the President. You have not provided a witness list. We do not have the Schiff Report. We do not have any underlying materials to the Schiff Report. We do not know of any hearings other than one of academics and possibly a presentation by Chairman Schiff’s committee. For the first time in history, this Committee will weigh impeachment without any evidence for us to review. Any discussion with the yet-to-be identified witnesses will, therefore, be in the abstract.

Regarding the White House participation in this sham inquiry, White House Counsel Pat Cipollone wrote you yesterday evening, “the countless procedural deficiencies that have infected this inquiry from its inception ... shows the lack of seriousness with which you are undertaking these proceedings.”² Former Rep. Jane Harman (D-CA) said on television Sunday morning, “the process is being rushed at this point ... I think that [the Schiff Report] and the names of the witnesses [for December 4] should be public immediately.”³ Even members of your own party are calling on you to conduct a fair and thorough process. This *ad hoc*, poorly executed “impeachment inquiry” will provide the Senate with ample justification for expeditiously disposing of it.

Once again, I request clarity on how you intend to conduct this inquiry. As Republicans have stated before, and consistent with Chairman Schiff’s repeated statements, withholding information from the minority shall constitute evidence of your denial of fundamental fairness and due process, as well as obstruction of minority rights. I stand ready to engage with you on this point, and look forward to hearing from you today.

Sincerely,



Doug Collins
Ranking Member

¹ Markup of H.R. 5038, Hearing Before the Comm. on the Judiciary (2019) (Statement of Ranking Member Collins).

² Letter from Mr. Pat A. Cipollone, Counsel to the President, to Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Dec. 1, 2019).

³ Fox News Sunday transcript, available at <https://www.foxnews.com/transcript/rep-doug-collins-hakeem-jeffries-on-what-to-expect-as-impeachment-hearings-shift-to-the-house-judiciary-committee>.