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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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DAVID M. WEINBERG, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 6, 2020

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson:

As you noted in your March 1, 2020 letter, Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, Judiciary Committee, and Finance Committee staff participated in a February 28, 2020 phone call with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) to address concerns about interacting with Andrii Telizhenko.¹ The call was unclassified. During the call, minority staff informed the FBI that they had questions about Mr. Telizhenko that could only be asked in a classified setting, and the FBI agreed to provide the Committee with that opportunity. That classified briefing has not yet happened. Similarly, since December, I have sought to have the Committee arrange a bipartisan briefing with the Intelligence Community (IC) about foreign efforts to interfere in the 2020 presidential election related to this investigation. That classified briefing has also not yet happened.

This is a matter of national security, and our Committee members must have the opportunity to get classified updates from our law enforcement and intelligence community experts to prevent the Committee from being used to advance information that could benefit foreign adversaries and undermine the integrity of our elections. To that end, I urge you join my request for appropriate FBI counter intelligence and IC personnel to meet with cleared committee staff and Members in advance of any business meeting at which your subpoena to Mr. Telizhenko will be considered.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs

¹Letter from Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to Sen. Gary C. Peters, Ranking Member, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (February 24, 2020).

The Honorable Ron Johnson

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cc:

The Honorable Michael Enzi, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Thomas Carper, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Rob Portman, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Rand Paul, U.S. Senator

The Honorable James Lankford, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Maggie Hassan, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Jacky Rosen, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Mitt Romney, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Josh Hawley, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Rick Scott, U.S. Senator