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United States Senate

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

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June 6, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

On September 8, 2016, senior officials from the Obama Administration briefed Members of Congress about the Russian Government's attempts to interfere in the 2016 election.¹ The briefers—then-Secretary Jeh Johnson, then-FBI Director James Comey, and President Obama's Homeland Security Advisor Lisa Monaco—assured Members that the Administration had the matter under control and asked for Congress's help in reinforcing public confidence in the election.² In recent testimony, Jeanette Manfra, DHS's Assistant Secretary for the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, who was present during the briefing, confirmed this assessment.³

To understand the threat as it existed at the time of the briefing, I respectfully request that you provide the following information and material:

1. Please produce all documents created or used in preparing Secretary Johnson for a discussion about the Russian Government's attempts to interfere in the 2016 election during the September 8, 2016 briefing.
2. Please produce all documents generated by DHS in advance of the September 8, 2016 briefing about the Russian Government's attempts to interfere in the 2016 election.
3. Please produce all documents and communications between or among Secretary Johnson or any DHS employee, Director Comey or any FBI employee, or Lisa Monaco or any National Security Council employee referring or relating to briefing Members of Congress on the Russian Government's attempts to interfere in the 2016 election on September 8, 2016.

Please provide a response as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 20, 2018.

¹ Briefing from the Dep't of Homeland Sec. and Fed. Bureau of Investigation to Members of Congress on Cybersecurity (Sept. 8, 2016).

² *Id.*

³ *Mitigating America's Cybersecurity Risk, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. & Governmental Affairs, 115th Cong. (2018).*

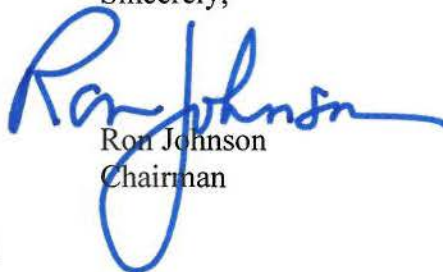
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Please provide all unclassified information directly to Majority staff in room 340 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building and to Minority staff in room 442 of the Hart Senate Office Building. Any classified information provided in response to this letter should be provided under separate cover through the Office of Senate Security.

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized by Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to investigate “the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government.”⁴ Additionally, S. Res. 62 (115th Congress) authorizes the Committee to examine “the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches and functions of Government with particular references to (i) the effectiveness of present national security methods, staffing, and processes”⁵

If you have any questions, please contact me or ask your staff to contact Michael Lueptow of the Committee staff at 202-224-4751. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

⁴ S. Rule XXV(k); *see also* S. Res. 445, 108th Cong. (2004).

⁵ S. Res. 62 § 12, 115th Cong. (2017).