

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 3, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Honorable Avril Haines
Director of National Intelligence

Dear Director Wray and Director Haines:

Last week, the Washington Post reported on “an extensive effort by the [FBI] to alert members of Congress...that they faced a risk of being used to further Russia’s attempt to influence the election’s outcome[.]” This statement was attributed to “several current and former U.S. officials” who remained anonymous “because the matter remains highly sensitive.” The article then inaccurately proceeded to link Russian disinformation attempts to our investigation, which was based on Obama administration government records and records that showed extensive financial connections between the Biden family and questionable foreign nationals, including individuals connected to the communist Chinese government’s military and intelligence services.

The Washington Post reporting purported to be based, in part, on an August 6, 2020, briefing that we received from the FBI, which happened in response to pressure from Democratic Leadership. The briefing was not specific. Moreover, it consisted primarily of information that we already knew and information unconnected to our investigation. We made clear to the FBI briefers on August 6, 2020, that the briefing was not relevant to the substance of our work. We also made clear our concern that the briefing would be subject to a leak that would shed a false light on the focus of our investigation. Indeed, last week’s article did exactly that.

In light of our concerns that a leak would occur, we asked the briefers how they would ensure that the information discussed that day would be kept secure. The briefers promised confidentiality and rightly refused to disclose who else they would brief on the same matter.

Clearly, that promise of confidentiality was breached. The result was the spread of false information about our investigation and an inaccurate news article sourced, in part, to government officials.

The sources of this false reporting could include FBI and Intelligence Community personnel and we request to meet with you in person to discuss this matter. In advance of that meeting, we request the following information, relating to the August 2020 briefing, no later than May 10, 2021:

1. A copy of the briefing notes;
2. All intelligence reporting, products, and analysis that formed the basis of the briefing;
3. The name/s of the person/s who recommended that we be briefed; and
4. A description of the process for deciding to brief us and the substance of the briefing.

Should you have questions, please contact Josh Flynn-Brown of Senator Grassley's Committee staff at 202-224-5225 and Brian Downey and Scott Wittmann of Senator Johnson's Subcommittee staff at 202-224-3721. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary



Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee
on Investigations