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Congress of the United States
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December 8, 2016

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

As a senior member of the House Committee on Judiciary, and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations, I am writing to request that the Committee convene hearings to investigate the impact on the recent presidential election of several significant and controversial actions taken by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, James Comey.

Specifically, the issues to be explored in committee hearings include:

1. The propriety of the news conference held by Director Comey on July 5, 2016, during which he announced that the FBI had completed its investigation regarding the email server of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who was then the presidential candidate of the Democratic Party and had concluded that no violation of law had been committed but offered unfavorable personal opinions *ex cathedra* regarding Secretary Clinton's conduct;
2. The propriety of Director Comey's decision, over the expressed objections of the Attorney General and other senior Justice Department officials, to send his vaguely worded letter on October 28, 2016, a mere eleven days before Election Day, to partisan Congressional Republican opponents of Secretary Clinton allowing them to leak the letter to the media and claim falsely that the FBI had reopened the investigation for the sole purpose of inflicting electoral damage on Secretary Clinton;
3. Whether FBI Director Comey violated any policy, practice, custom, or regulation of the Department of Justice enjoining Justice Department

officials and employees from engaging any conduct or taking any legal action that could impact the outcome of an election to be held within the ensuing 60 days, and, if so, the harm to the agency resulting therefrom;

4. Whether the actions taken by FBI Director Comey influenced the electoral choices of persons in any of 38 states where early voting was underway or about to begin when FBI Director Comey's October 28, 2016 letter was made public, particularly the state of Florida in early voting began October 29 and ended on November 5, 2016, the day before FBI Director Comey issued his second letter in which he reaffirmed the conclusions first announced four months before in July 2016; and
5. The basis for FBI Director Comey's apparent belief that acknowledgment by the FBI that entities connected to the Government of Russia were responsible for cyber-attacks on entities associated with the Democratic presidential candidate's campaign with the intent of influencing the outcome of the presidential election would compromise the impartiality of the FBI but that no such harm would result to the electoral prospects of Secretary Clinton by 11th hour injection and revival of unsubstantiated allegations against Secretary Clinton of email irregularities.
6. The lessening of public trust and confidence in the integrity and legitimacy of the nation's electoral system resulting from the FBI Director's decision to make public disclosure of information damaging to one of the two major presidential candidates but concealing from the public the fact that the campaign of the other major candidate was at the same time under FBI investigation for suspected infiltration by agents of the Government of Russia, a hostile foreign power.

These are critical issues and directly related to the integrity of the nation's electoral system and its 228 year record of free and fair elections under the U.S. Constitution. The public demands and deserves answers to these vitally important questions. The place to begin the search for the truth is an open hearing before the full Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me directly or through my Chief of Staff, Glenn Rushing, at Glenn.Rushing@mail.house.gov or 202-225-3816.

Very Truly Yours,



Sheila Jackson Lee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

cc: Speaker Paul D. Ryan
Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi