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SPECIAL
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

February 10, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
2142 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

As the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations, I am writing to respectfully request that the Committee conduct thorough and probing hearings regarding the activities and communications between the current President's National Security Advisor, Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn (ret.), and officials of the Russian Federation engaged in between November 8, 2016 and January 20, 2017. According to media reports, there is credible evidence indicating that contrary to earlier denials by him and Vice-President Pence, Gen. Flynn privately discussed U.S. sanctions against Russia with Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the United States, during the month before the current President took office.

The sanctions that appear to have been discussed by Gen. Flynn and the Russian ambassador were imposed by President Obama on the Russian Federation in response to the cyber attacks orchestrated by the Russian Federation to subvert the 2016 presidential election by sowing seeds of distrust and suspicion of U.S. democratic institutions for the express purpose of electing the preferred choice of the Russian Federation for U.S. President, Donald J. Trump.

Given your strong commitment to the rule of law and constitutional governance, and your demonstrated record of working together constructively, I know you find these recent disclosures as deeply disturbing as I do.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which includes the Central Intelligence Agency, has cited a growing body of intelligence from multiple sources confirming that the politically motivated hacks of the 2016 election originated at the highest levels of the Kremlin and confirmed that the activity was intended to favor presidential candidate Trump. This election malfeasance on the part of the

Government of Russia appears to be part of wider strategy to disrupt and destabilize the political system and economies of the western democracies.

The integrity of the democratic process must never be in question, and I am very concerned that Russian interference in the recent election may have inflicted substantial damage to Americans' confidence in the political system. That confidence may suffer further erosion if Congress fails to investigate improper, and possibly illegal, pre-inaugural communications regarding American national security policy between agents of the Russian government and agents of a President-elect. There can be no higher priority for the next Congress than ensuring that American democracy and its governing institutions are invulnerable to foreign influence or manipulation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have questions or need further information, contact me through my Chief of Staff, Glenn Rushing, at (202) 225-3816 or by email at Glenn.Rushing@mail.house.gov.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheila Jackson Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheila" being the most prominent.

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress