

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2019

The Honorable Adam B. Schiff
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
HVC-304, Capitol Visitor Center
Washington, D.C. 20515

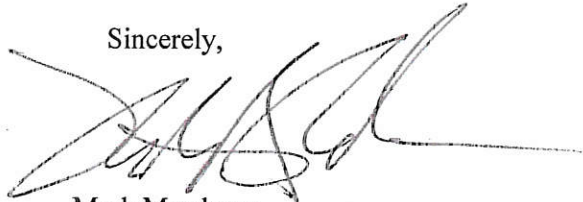
Dear Mr. Chairman:

During the October 29, 2019 deposition of LTC Alexander Vindman, you overruled an objection raised allowing LTC Vindman to refrain from answering certain questions. As you aware, LTC Vindman's testimony before the Committees on Intelligence, Oversight and Reform, and Foreign Affairs was compelled, and a witness may only refuse to answer a question to preserve a privilege.

Accordingly, pursuant to paragraph 7 of the *116th Congress Regulations for Use of Deposition Authority*, I appeal the ruling of the Chair and ask that the question of the ruling of the Chair be immediately put for consideration before the Committee.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark Meadows
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform
Subcommittee on Government Operations

Copy to: Mr. Thomas J. Wickham, Jr, Parliamentarian

7. Objections must be stated concisely and in a non-argumentative and non-suggestive manner. A witness's counsel may not instruct a witness to refuse to answer a question, except to preserve a privilege. In the event of professional, ethical, or other misconduct by the witness's counsel during the deposition, the Committee may take any appropriate disciplinary action. The witness may refuse to answer a question only to preserve a privilege. When the witness has refused to answer a question to preserve a privilege, members or staff may (i) proceed with the deposition, or (ii) either at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling from the Chair either by telephone or otherwise. If the Chair overrules any such objection and thereby orders a witness to answer any question to which an objection was lodged, the witness shall be ordered to answer. If a member of the committee chooses to appeal the ruling of the chair, such appeal must be made within three days, in writing, and shall be preserved for committee consideration. The Committee's ruling on appeal shall be filed with the clerk of the Committee and shall be provided to the members and witness no less than three days before the reconvened deposition. A deponent who refuses to answer a question after being directed to answer by the chair may be subject to sanction, except that no sanctions may be imposed if the ruling of the chair is reversed by the committee on appeal.