

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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May 19, 2020

The Honorable David S. Ferriero
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records
Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Chad Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
300 7th St SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Archivist Ferriero and Secretaries Mnuchin, Pompeo, and Wolf:

I write with concerns that executive branch agencies are cooperating with, or considering cooperating with, congressional investigations related to Hunter Biden, a private citizen, and his work on the board of an overseas gas company, Burisma, while refusing to cooperate with other, legitimate congressional investigations into President Trump.

On March 11, 2020, I sent a letter to your respective agency's Office of Inspector General requesting an investigation into whether your agency was or is applying a different standard to congressional requests related to the president's political opponents compared to congressional requests related to recent impeachment proceedings or the president's tax returns.

Several of your respective agency's Office of Inspector General asked that we first reach out to you because your agency has the factual information sought and that your agency would therefore be able to provide answers to my questions.

To that end, I respectfully ask that you respond to the following questions:

1. Whether your respective agency cooperated with any congressional requests related to the president's political opponents, including those associated with Hunter Biden or Burisma;
2. If so, to what extent your agency complied with such requests;
3. Whether your respective agency cooperated with congressional requests related to recent impeachment proceedings or the president's tax returns;

4. If so, to what extent your agency complied with such requests; and
5. Whether there has been a different standard applied to document requests for investigations related to the president's political opponents and document requests related to investigations of the president.

As I wrote to your Inspectors General, I am troubled that President Trump may be weaponizing the executive branch in advance of the 2020 elections by directing agencies to comply with congressional investigations designed to hurt his political opponents while stonewalling legitimate oversight investigations into the actions of his own administration.

With President Trump's continued firings of Inspectors General, it is more important than ever that Congress perform its oversight duties in a timely manner. I therefore request your initial response by Friday, May 29, 2020.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Murphy
U.S. Senator

Enclosure