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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1302

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The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Chairman Chaffetz:

For two centuries, the U.S. electoral system has served as the bedrock of our democracy and guided democratic principles around the world. Last week's reports of a CIA assessment that Russia made efforts to sway our election through a series of hacks and the leaking of politically sensitive information is a direct affront to the democracy we hold dear and an attack on the very freedoms that we are sworn to protect. Undermining American elections threatens the legitimacy of not just the United States, but the stability of democratic states around the world.

As the Ranking Member on the Oversight Committee's IT Subcommittee, I am asking that our Committee hold full investigative hearings on Russia's actions in the 2016 Presidential race and its efforts to undermine our elections. I was glad to hear that a bipartisan contingent of U.S. Senators have gone on the record expressing concerns with Russia's alleged actions in the CIA assessment, and that this morning Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell asserted his support for the bipartisan efforts, stating that "Russia is not our friend."

I think that it is owed to the Members of this body, and those we represent, to have a classified briefing on the Intelligence Community's assessment of Russian intervention in the 2016 election. This is an issue that I have been monitoring for some time, and one that I happily worked on in a bipartisan fashion with Chairman Will Hurd this Congress. In a fall hearing entitled "Cybersecurity: Ensuring the Integrity of the Ballot Box," we investigated potential

cyber threats facing our election systems. We had no idea that so soon thereafter, the Department of Homeland Security and Office of the Director of National Intelligence on Election Security would jointly confirm Russia's attempts to influence the 2016 U.S. election in a statement expressing:

“The U.S. Intelligence Community (USIC) is confident that the Russian Government directed the recent compromises of e-mails from U.S. persons and institutions, including from U.S. political organizations. The recent disclosures of alleged hacked e-mails on sites like DCLeaks.com and WikiLeaks and by the Guccifer 2.0 online persona are consistent with the methods and motivations of Russian-directed efforts. These thefts and disclosures are intended to interfere with the U.S. election process.”

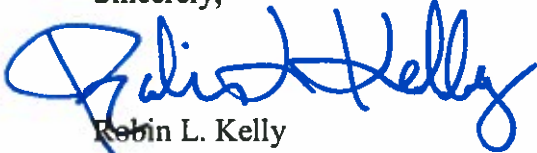
Now that CIA sources have indicated that there was indeed Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential contest, we must act swiftly to defend our democratic elections and hold the Putin Regime accountable for their actions.

It is not the intent of this letter to undermine the nomination of President-elect Trump. Rather, this is an appeal for Democrats and Republicans to put aside partisanship and show very clearly and expressly to the American people and global community that we will not tolerate any form of election interference and undermining of our democracy.

While we have disagreed on matters of policy and philosophy in the past, I have always admired both of your commitments to our country and Constitution. It is in this spirit, I seek to work together on this vital issue.

Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress