Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2023

Mr. Gerald A. O'Shea
c/o Central Intelligence Agency
via e-mail

Dear Mr. O'Shea:

The Committee on the Judiciary and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence are conducting oversight of federal law-enforcement and intelligence matters within our respective jurisdictions. The Judiciary Committee made a prior request to you for documents and information about the public statement you signed in October 2020 that falsely implied the *New York Post*'s reporting about Hunter Biden was the product of Russian disinformation. This request, to include a request for a transcribed interview before the Committees, remains outstanding. These documents and your testimony are necessary to further our oversight. As we begin the 118th Congress, we write again to reiterate our outstanding request and ask that you immediately comply in full.

You have been on notice about our oversight request—and aware the request is outstanding—for months. For your convenience, we have attached the letter from the Judiciary Committee dated April 6, 2022.[1] To date, you have not complied with this request. Accordingly, we reiterate our requests and ask that you comply promptly.

Please contact Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-6906 to schedule your interview and arrange for the production of the outstanding material. If you are represented by private counsel, please ask your attorney to respond promptly to the Committee on your behalf.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

Michael R. Turner
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Jim Himes, Ranking Member, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Enclosure

[1] Letter from Reps. Jim Jordan, et al., H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to 51 IC Officials (Apr. 6, 2022).

JERROLD NADLER, New York
CHAIRMAN

JIM JORDAN, Ohio
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6216
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April 6, 2022

Mr. Gerald A. O'Shea
c/o Central Intelligence Agency
via e-mail

Dear Mr. O'Shea:

On October 14, 2020, the *New York Post* published a report detailing how Hunter Biden used the position and influence of his father, now-President Joe Biden, for personal gain with the apparent awareness of President Biden.[1] This article raised doubts about President Biden's earlier denial of ever speaking to his son about his international business dealings.[2] The *Post* reported on an email in which a Ukrainian businessman urged Hunter Biden to "use [his] influence to convey a message / signal, etc. to stop what we consider to be politically motivated actions."[3] In another email, the same businessman thanked Hunter Biden for arranging a meeting with his father, calling it "an honor and pleasure."[4] The *Post* reported that these emails came from a laptop belonging to Hunter Biden that he had abandoned in a Delaware computer shop.[5]

On October 19, 2020, you signed a public statement attempting to discredit the contents of the *New York Post*'s reporting about Hunter Biden.[6] This statement emphasized the national security credentials of you and the other signatories, implying that the assertions and conclusions in the statement were grounded in information unavailable to other Americans. Referencing this unique experience, you wrote:

> It is for all these reasons that we write to say that the arrival on the US political scene of emails purportedly belonging to Vice President Biden's son Hunter, much of it related to his time serving on the Board of the Ukrainian gas company Burisma, has all the classic earmarks of a Russian information operation.[7]

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[1] Emma-Jo Morris & Gabrielle Fonrouge, *Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad*, N.Y. Post, Oct. 14, 2020.
[2] *E.g.* Nick Givas, *Joe Biden again denies speaking to son about Ukrainian business dealings*, Fox News, Oct. 10, 2019.
[3] Morris & Fonrouge, *supra* note 1.
[4] *Id.*
[5] *Id.*
[6] Jim Clapper et al., Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails (Oct. 19, 2020).
[7] *Id.*

Although this statement acknowledged that you had seen no actual "evidence" of Russian involvement with respect to the publication of Hunter Biden's emails, you nonetheless conveyed a "deep[] suspicio[n] that the Russian government played a significant role in the case."[8] Later in the statement, you went further to state a "view"—not merely a suspicion anymore—"that the Russians are involved in the Hunter Biden email issue . . . ."[9]

Your public statement served as a basis for Democrat operatives to try to delegitimize the scandalous allegations about Hunter Biden and the Biden family. On the same day as your statement, *Politico* published a story about the statement, with the conclusive headline, "Hunter Biden story is Russian disinfo, dozens of former intel officials say."[10] Departing from the statement's careful wording, the *Politico* story quoted one signatory to the letter as being confident that "once again the Russians are interfering" in our elections.[11] Fifteen minutes after *Politico* published its story, Jen Psaki, who now serves as Press Secretary to the President, tweeted a link to the *Politico* story.[12] The Biden campaign repeatedly cited your statement to dismiss the allegations against Hunter Biden.[13] During the final presidential debate, Vice President Biden also dismissed concerns about Hunter Biden's international business dealings as part of a "Russian plan."[14]

Your public statement was consistent with a broader effort to minimize and censor the *New York Post*'s reporting about Hunter Biden and the Biden family. National news organizations called the allegations about Hunter Biden "dubious" and a "non-scandal"; CBS News reporter Leslie Stahl said the allegations "can't be verified"; and NPR called it a "waste . . . of time" and a "pure distraction."[15] Separately, Twitter and Facebook restricted access to the *New York Post*'s reporting about Hunter Biden, with Twitter locking the *Post*'s account and Facebook deferring to a so-called independent fact-check that never occurred.[16] These efforts likely affected public awareness of the serious allegations surrounding the Biden family in the crucial weeks before the 2020 election.

We now know from subsequent reporting that the *New York Post*'s article about Hunter Biden was not, as you and your co-signatories alleged, part of a "Russian information

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[8] *Id.*
[9] *Id.*
[10] Natasha Bertrand, *Hunter Biden story is Russian disinfo, dozens of former intel officials say*, Politico, Oct. 19, 2020.
[11] *Id.*
[12] Tweet by Jen Psaki, Twitter.com (Oct. 19, 2020, 10:45 p.m.), https://twitter.com/jrpsaki/status/1318382779659411458.
[13] *E.g.* Houston Keene, *Flashback: Biden officials pushed angle that Hunter laptop was 'Russian disinfo,'* Fox News, Mar. 17, 2022.
[14] Deirdre Shesgreen, *"Nothing was unethical": Joe Biden defends Hunter Biden under pressure from Trump in debate*, USA Today, Oct. 22, 2020.
[15] Joe Concha, *Media's pre-election burial of Hunter Biden story proves dereliction of duty*, The Hill, Dec. 11, 2020.
[16] *E.g.* Elizabeth Dwoskin, *Facebook and Twitter take unusual steps to limit spread of New York Post story*, Wash. Post, Oct. 15, 2020.

operation."[17] This belated verification of the *Post*'s reporting raises fresh questions about the public statement you signed in October 2020. At best, the public statement was a reckless attempt by you and your co-signatories to erroneously opine about purported election interference. At worse—and more likely—the public statement was a deliberate and coordinated effort to mislead the American people about information relevant to the 2020 presidential election by invoking your national security experience to falsely suggest that the allegations about Hunter Biden were not based in fact.

The concerted effort to suppress public dissemination of the serious allegations about Hunter Biden and the Biden family, as first reported in October 2020 by the *New York Post*, was a grave disservice to American citizens' informed participation in our democracy. We are investigating the role that the public statement played in this effort. Accordingly, please provide the following material:

1. Identify all people with whom you communicated about the inception, drafting, editing, signing, publishing, or promotion of the "Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails" dated October 19, 2020; and

2. Produce all documents and communications referring or relating to the "Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails" dated October 19, 2020.

Please produce this material as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2022. In addition, we request that you take all reasonable steps to preserve records that may be potentially responsive to this inquiry.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Jordan
Ranking Member

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet

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[17] *E.g.* Katie Brenner et al., *Hunter Biden paid tax bill, but broad federal investigation continues*, N.Y. Times, Mar. 16, 2022; Matt Viser et al., *Inside Hunter Biden's multimillion-dollar deals with a Chinese energy company*, Wash. Post, Mar. 30, 2022.

Ken Buck
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law

Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

Mike Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Andy Biggs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security

Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship

W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress

Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress

Thomas Massie
Member of Congress

Chip Roy
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress

Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

Burgess Owens
Member of Congress