

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC 20515-6216
One Hundred Fifteenth Congress

March 8, 2017

The Honorable James B. Comey
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Director Comey:

Over the past several days, there have been reports containing significant surveillance and cyber-related allegations, including that the government of the Russian Federation attempted to interfere with the 2016 U.S. presidential election as part of a broader cyberattack on our country and the fundamentals of our democracy. It also appears information classified at the highest level, including methodologies of surveillance, has made its way into the public domain. Moreover, we now see allegations from the President himself that he and his associates were placed under surveillance during the 2016 campaign.

An independent FBI and Justice Department are essential to a functioning Republic. Our fellow citizens must have confidence in the thoroughness and evenhandedness of our investigatory and prosecutorial agencies. In the past, some of the undersigned have lamented the appearance of a multitrack justice system. The same laws must apply to each of us.

We believe both the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch have unique but distinct investigatory functions. The Executive Branch uniquely investigates allegations of criminal wrongdoing, and it should do so without impermissible interference from the other Branches. If criminal activity is discovered, it should be investigated and prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the law. The Legislative Branch has a distinct constitutional role as well, in that it exercises oversight of the functions of the Executive Branch. This Committee will, of course, continue to engage in oversight within our jurisdiction.

To these ends, we again request a briefing regarding Russia's alleged interference in the U.S. election, and additionally, on the very serious allegations that the President and/or his associates were or are under surveillance. These briefings must also, necessarily, address why information on any of these matters – which is presumably classified – continues to leak. The Judiciary Committee is the primary House committee of jurisdiction over the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and the Wiretap Act, laws heavily implicated by recent claims. We, therefore, will not waver in our commitment to ensuring that our nation's most powerful intelligence tools and agencies operate with the trust and confidence of the American people.

We know you understand that the FBI must keep total fidelity to the laws and the Constitution of the United States. We therefore urge you to follow all legitimate investigative leads in these matters and any other matter affecting the national security of the United States.

Sincerely,

Bob Goodlatte
Jim Cooper
Curbishley
Kent Franks
Tom Marino
Dy Cullen
John Ratcliffe
Mike Jordan
McQuinn
Steve Chabot

Trey Gowdy
Steve Chalot
Steve King
AMM
Raul R. Labrador
Ken Buck
Matthew Roby
Andy Biggs
Blake English
Matt Meigs
Lamar Smith
J. Jordan