



U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BRAD SHERMAN

January 13, 2017

CALIFORNIA, 30TH DISTRICT

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

RE: Appointment of Special Counsel on Interference with the U.S. Democratic Process

Dear Madam Attorney General:

I am writing to request your appointment of a Special Counsel¹ on interference with the U.S. democratic process to investigate whether U.S. persons encouraged or paid Russian or Eastern European hackers to cyber-burglarize American citizens and institutions, including the Democratic National Committee and John D. Podesta, or otherwise criminally interfere with the 2016 election.

Given the incoming Trump Administration's possible lack of interest in investigating whether or not Russia interfered in our election, a Special Counsel is necessary to ensure that any American persons involved in such an effort be prosecuted if warranted. This is especially critical due to the facts in an Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) unclassified report released on January 6, 2017, that appear to confirm Russian interference.

I requested from President Obama in December 2016 and January 2017 a classified high-level Intelligence Community briefing for all House of Representatives Members regarding foreign interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections. Today, we received that briefing, but many questions are still left unanswered. In addition, I have read the classified ODNI report on Russian interference in its entirety; it is clear that this matter cannot be put to rest.

The contention of foreign interference in the United States democratic process must not be ignored; this is a matter of national security and a threat to our democratic process. With a week left until the next administration takes office, it is vital that you appoint a Special Counsel that is independent of the incoming administration as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress

¹ 28 C.F.R. Part 600, §§600.1 to 600.10