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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
JENNIFER DUCK, *Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

January 25, 2018

Joel Benenson
Chief Strategist, Hillary for America
Benenson Strategy Group
777 3rd Avenue
33rd Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Benenson:

In October 2017, the *Washington Post* reported that Hillary for America and the Democratic National Committee had funded, via Fusion GPS, Christopher Steele's creation of a series of memos relying largely on Russian government sources to make allegations against Donald Trump and his associates.¹ A letter from the law firm Perkins Coie acknowledged that, "[t]o assist in its representation of the DNC and Hillary for America, Perkins Coie engaged Fusion GPS in April of 2016" and that "the engagement concluded prior to the November 2016 Presidential election."²

The Senate Judiciary Committee has a constitutional duty to conduct oversight of the FBI and the broader Department of Justice. Part of that duty involves ensuring that law enforcement efforts are conducted without improper political influence. Accordingly, the Committee has been investigating the FBI's relationship with Christopher Steele during this time his work was funded by Hillary for America and the DNC. The scope of our review includes the extent to which the FBI may have relied on information relayed by Mr. Steele in seeking judicial authorization for surveillance of individuals associated with Mr. Trump. It also includes whether any applications that may have been made for permission for such surveillance fully and accurately disclosed:

- (1) the source of Fusion GPS's and Mr. Steele's funding;
- (2) the degree to which his claims were or were not verified;
- (3) the motivations of Mr. Steele, his clients, and his sources; and
- (4) representations about their contacts with the press.

Understanding the extent of the Clinton campaign's knowledge of, and interactions with, Mr. Steele and others involved in Fusion GPS's work is essential to this inquiry.

¹ Adam Entous, Devlin Barrett, Rosalind Helderman, *Clinton Campaign, DNC Paid For Research That Led to Russia Dossier*, THE WASHINGTON POST (Oct. 24, 2017).

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In light of this, by February 8, 2018, please answer the following questions and provide the following requested documents:

1. Prior to the *Washington Post*'s article in October of 2017, were you or anyone else at Hillary for America³ aware of Mr. Steele's efforts on behalf of the Clinton campaign to compile and distribute allegations about Mr. Trump and the Russian government? If so, when and how did you first learn of his activities on the campaign's behalf? Please provide all related documents.
2. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America receive copies of any of the memoranda comprising Mr. Steele's dossier prior to its publication by *Buzzfeed* in January of 2017? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
3. Regardless of whether you or others affiliated with the campaign received copies of the actual memoranda, did you or anyone else at Hillary for America otherwise receive information contained in the dossier prior to *Buzzfeed* publishing the dossier in January of 2017? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
4. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America receive other memoranda written or forwarded by Mr. Steele regarding Mr. Trump and his associates that were not published as part of the *Buzzfeed* dossier? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
5. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America distribute outside of the organization any of the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list who distributed the information, what was distributed, and to whom it was distributed. Please provide all related documents.
6. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America communicate with any government officials – whether in the executive, legislative or judicial branches – regarding the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list the parties involved in the communication, the content of the communication, and the date and means of the communication. Please provide all related documents.
7. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America instruct, request, suggest, or imply that any individuals should pass along information to Mr. Steele or his intermediaries? Please provide all related documents.
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9. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America inform Secretary Clinton of Mr. Steele's efforts, whether by name or not, or of the allegations he was spreading? If so, who and when? Please provide all related documents.
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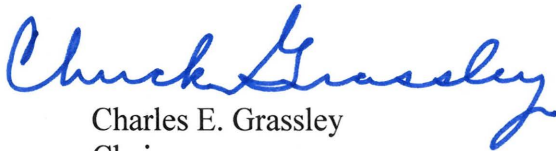
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Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please contact Patrick Davis of Chairman Grassley's staff at (202) 224-5225 or Lee Holmes of Chairman Graham's staff at (202) 224-5972 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary



Lindsey O. Graham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
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KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
JENNIFER DUICK, *Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

January 25, 2018

Donna Brazile
Former Chair, Democratic National Committee
Brazile & Associates LLC
607 14th Street Northwest
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Brazile:

In October 2017, the *Washington Post* reported that Hillary for America and the Democratic National Committee had funded, via Fusion GPS, Christopher Steele's creation of a series of memos relying largely on Russian government sources to make allegations against Donald Trump and his associates.¹ A letter from the law firm Perkins Coie acknowledged that, "[t]o assist in its representation of the DNC and Hillary for America, Perkins Coie engaged Fusion GPS in April of 2016" and that "the engagement concluded prior to the November 2016 Presidential election."²

The Senate Judiciary Committee has a constitutional duty to conduct oversight of the FBI and the broader Department of Justice. Part of that duty involves ensuring that law enforcement efforts are conducted without improper political influence. Accordingly, the Committee has been investigating the FBI's relationship with Christopher Steele during this time his work was funded by Hillary for America and the DNC. The scope of our review includes the extent to which the FBI may have relied on information relayed by Mr. Steele in seeking judicial authorization for surveillance of individuals associated with Mr. Trump. It also includes whether any applications that may have been made for permission for such surveillance fully and accurately disclosed:

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Understanding the extent of the DNC's knowledge of, and interactions with, Mr. Steele and others involved in Fusion GPS's work is essential to this inquiry.

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2. Did you or anyone else at the DNC receive copies of any of the memoranda comprising Mr. Steele's dossier prior to its publication by *Buzzfeed* in January of 2017? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
3. Regardless of whether you received copies of the actual memoranda, did you or anyone else at the DNC otherwise receive information contained in the dossier prior to *Buzzfeed* publishing the dossier in January of 2017? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
4. Did you or anyone else at the DNC receive other memoranda written or forwarded by Mr. Steele regarding Mr. Trump and his associates that were not published as part of the *Buzzfeed* dossier? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
5. Did you or anyone else at the DNC distribute outside of the organization any of the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list who distributed the information, what was distributed, and to whom it was distributed. Please provide all related documents.
6. Did you or anyone else at the DNC communicate with any government officials – whether in the executive, legislative or judicial branches – regarding the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list the parties involved in the communication, the content of the communication, and the date and means of the communication. Please provide all related documents.
7. Did you or anyone else at the DNC instruct, request, suggest, or imply that any individuals should pass along information to Mr. Steele or his intermediaries? Please provide all related documents.
8. Did you or anyone else at the DNC communicate with members of the press regarding the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list the parties involved in the

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9. Did you or anyone at the DNC inform Secretary Clinton of Mr. Steele's efforts, whether by name or not, or of the allegations he was spreading? If so, who and when? Please provide all related documents.
10. Were you or anyone else at the DNC aware of Mr. Steele's contacts with the FBI or other government agencies prior to the 2016 election? If so, who? When and how did they become aware? Please provide all related documents.
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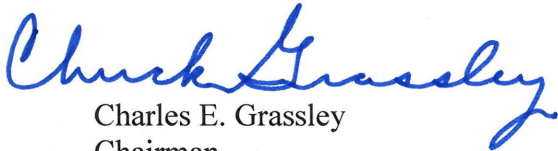
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Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please contact Patrick Davis of Chairman Grassley's staff at (202) 224-5225 or Lee Holmes of Chairman Graham's staff at (202) 224-5972 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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Committee on the Judiciary



Lindsey O. Graham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, Chief Counsel and Staff Director
JENNIFER DUCK, Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director

January 25, 2018

The Honorable Thomas Perez
Chairman
Democratic National Committee
430 South Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

c/o

Marc E. Elias, Esq.
Perkins Coie LLP
700 13th Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Perez:

In October 2017, the *Washington Post* reported that Hillary for America and the Democratic National Committee had funded, via Fusion GPS, Christopher Steele's creation of a series of memos relying largely on Russian government sources to make allegations against Donald Trump and his associates.¹ A letter from the law firm Perkins Coie acknowledged that, "[t]o assist in its representation of the DNC and Hillary for America, Perkins Coie engaged Fusion GPS in April of 2016" and that "the engagement concluded prior to the November 2016 Presidential election."²

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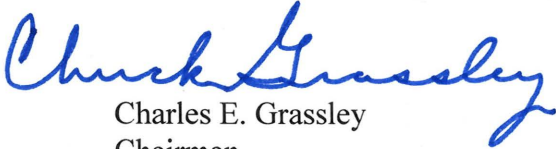
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KOLAN L. DAVIS, Chief Counsel and Staff Director
JENNIFER DUCK, Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director

January 25, 2018

Robby Mook
Campaign Manager
Hillary for America
P.O. Box 5256
New York, NY 10185

c/o

Marc E. Elias, Esq.
Perkins Coie LLP
700 13th Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Mook:

In October 2017, the *Washington Post* reported that Hillary for America and the Democratic National Committee had funded, via Fusion GPS, Christopher Steele's creation of a series of memos relying largely on Russian government sources to make allegations against Donald Trump and his associates.¹ A letter from the law firm Perkins Coie acknowledged that, "[t]o assist in its representation of the DNC and Hillary for America, Perkins Coie engaged Fusion GPS in April of 2016" and that "the engagement concluded prior to the November 2016 Presidential election."²

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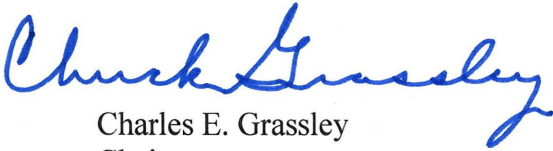
⁵ Jonathan M. Winer – former State Department official.

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⁷ James A. Baker – FBI official.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please contact Patrick Davis of Chairman Grassley's staff at (202) 224-5225 or Lee Holmes of Chairman Graham's staff at (202) 224-5972 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary



Lindsey O. Graham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
Committee on the Judiciary

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, Chief Counsel and Staff Director
JENNIFER DUICK, Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director

January 25, 2018

John Podesta
Chairman, Hillary for America
600 New Jersey Avenue NW
McDonough 417
Washington, D.C. 20001

c/o

Marc E. Elias, Esq.
Perkins Coie LLP
700 13th Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Podesta:

In October 2017, the *Washington Post* reported that Hillary for America and the Democratic National Committee had funded, via Fusion GPS, Christopher Steele's creation of a series of memos relying largely on Russian government sources to make allegations against Donald Trump and his associates.¹ A letter from the law firm Perkins Coie acknowledged that, "[t]o assist in its representation of the DNC and Hillary for America, Perkins Coie engaged Fusion GPS in April of 2016" and that "the engagement concluded prior to the November 2016 Presidential election."²

The Senate Judiciary Committee has a constitutional duty to conduct oversight of the FBI and the broader Department of Justice. Part of that duty involves ensuring that law enforcement efforts are conducted without improper political influence. Accordingly, the Committee has been investigating the FBI's relationship with Christopher Steele during this time his work was funded by Hillary for America and the DNC. The scope of our review includes the extent to which the FBI may have relied on information relayed by Mr. Steele in seeking judicial authorization for surveillance of individuals associated with Mr. Trump. It also includes whether any applications that may have been made for permission for such surveillance fully and accurately disclosed:

- (1) the source of Fusion GPS's and Mr. Steele's funding;
- (2) the degree to which his claims were or were not verified;

¹ Adam Entous, Devlin Barrett, Rosalind Helderman, *Clinton Campaign, DNC Paid For Research That Led to Russia Dossier*, THE WASHINGTON POST (Oct. 24, 2017).

² <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4116754-Perkins-Coie-Letter.html>

- (3) the motivations of Mr. Steele, his clients, and his sources; and
- (4) representations about their contacts with the press.

Understanding the extent of the Clinton campaign's knowledge of, and interactions with, Mr. Steele and others involved in Fusion GPS's work is essential to this inquiry.

In light of this, by February 8, 2018, please answer the following questions and provide the following requested documents:

1. Prior to the *Washington Post*'s article in October of 2017, were you anyone else at Hillary for America³ aware of Mr. Steele's efforts on behalf of the Clinton campaign to compile and distribute allegations about Mr. Trump and the Russian government? If so, when and how did you first learn of his activities on the campaign's behalf? Please provide all related documents.
2. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America receive copies of any of the memoranda comprising Mr. Steele's dossier prior to its publication by *Buzzfeed* in January of 2017? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
3. Regardless of whether you or your associates received copies of the actual memoranda, did you or anyone else at Hillary for America otherwise receive information contained in the dossier prior to *Buzzfeed* publishing the dossier in January of 2017? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
4. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America receive other memoranda written or forwarded by Mr. Steele regarding Mr. Trump and his associates that were not published as part of the *Buzzfeed* dossier? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
5. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America distribute outside of the organization any of the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list who distributed the information, what was distributed, and to whom it was distributed. Please provide all related documents.
6. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America communicate with any government officials – whether in the executive, legislative or judicial branches – regarding the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list the parties involved in the communication, the content of the communication, and the date and means of the communication. Please provide all related documents.

³ References such as "anyone at Hillary for America" include all of Hillary for America's officers, employees, contractors, subcontractors, advisors, volunteers, and, of course, Secretary Clinton herself.

7. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America instruct, request, suggest, or imply that any individuals should pass along information to Mr. Steele or his intermediaries? Please provide all related documents.
8. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America communicate with members of the press regarding the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list the parties involved in the communication, the content of the communication, and the date and means of the communication. Please provide all related documents.
9. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America inform Secretary Clinton of Mr. Steele's efforts, whether by name or not, or of the allegations he was spreading? If so, who and when? Please provide all related documents.
10. Were you or anyone else at Hillary for America aware of Mr. Steele's contacts with the FBI or other government agencies prior to the 2016 election? If so, who? When and how did you or they become aware? Please provide all related documents.
11. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America encourage, whether directly or through intermediaries, Mr. Steele to initiate or continue contacts with the FBI or other government agencies? If so, who and when? Please provide all related documents.
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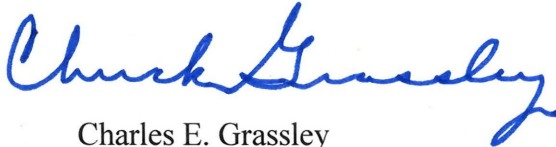
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Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary



Lindsey O. Graham
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Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, Chief Counsel and Staff Director
JENNIFER DUCK, Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director

January 25, 2018

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
United States House of Representatives
Former Chair
Democratic National Committee
430 South Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz:

In October 2017, the *Washington Post* reported that Hillary for America and the Democratic National Committee had funded, via Fusion GPS, Christopher Steele's creation of a series of memos relying largely on Russian government sources to make allegations against Donald Trump and his associates.¹ A letter from the law firm Perkins Coie acknowledged that, "[t]o assist in its representation of the DNC and Hillary for America, Perkins Coie engaged Fusion GPS in April of 2016" and that "the engagement concluded prior to the November 2016 Presidential election."²

The Senate Judiciary Committee has a constitutional duty to conduct oversight of the FBI and the broader Department of Justice. Part of that duty involves ensuring that law enforcement efforts are conducted without improper political influence. Accordingly, the Committee has been investigating the FBI's relationship with Christopher Steele during this time his work was funded by Hillary for America and the DNC. The scope of our review includes the extent to which the FBI may have relied on information relayed by Mr. Steele in seeking judicial authorization for surveillance of individuals associated with Mr. Trump. It also includes whether any applications that may have been made for permission for such surveillance fully and accurately disclosed:

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- (3) the motivations of Mr. Steele, his clients, and his sources; and
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Understanding the extent of the DNC's knowledge of, and interactions with, Mr. Steele and others involved in Fusion GPS's work is essential to this inquiry.

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In light of this, by February 8, 2018, please answer the following questions and provide the following requested documents:

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2. Did you or anyone else at the DNC receive copies of any of the memoranda comprising Mr. Steele's dossier prior to its publication by *Buzzfeed* in January of 2017? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
3. Regardless of whether you received copies of the actual memoranda, did you or anyone else at the DNC otherwise receive information contained in the dossier prior to *Buzzfeed* publishing the dossier in January of 2017? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
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5. Did you or anyone else at the DNC distribute outside of the organization any of the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list who distributed the information, what was distributed, and to whom it was distributed. Please provide all related documents.
6. Did you or anyone else at the DNC communicate with any government officials – whether in the executive, legislative or judicial branches – regarding the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list the parties involved in the communication, the content of the communication, and the date and means of the communication. Please provide all related documents.
7. Did you or anyone else at the DNC instruct, request, suggest, or imply that any individuals should pass along information to Mr. Steele or his intermediaries? Please provide all related documents.
8. Did you or anyone else at the DNC communicate with members of the press regarding the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list the parties involved in the

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9. Did you or anyone at the DNC inform Secretary Clinton of Mr. Steele's efforts, whether by name or not, or of the allegations he was spreading? If so, who and when? Please provide all related documents.
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11. Did you or anyone else at the DNC encourage, whether directly or through intermediaries, Mr. Steele to initiate or continue contacts with the FBI or other government agencies? If so, who and when? Please provide all related documents.
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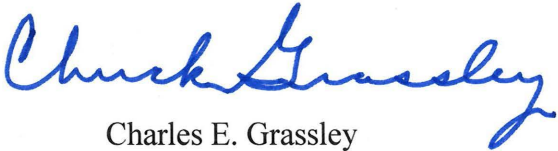
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