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FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
HOUSING AND INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Wednesday May 17, 2017

The Honorable Rod Rosenstein
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein:

The Intelligence community has expressed high confidence that the Russians influenced the 2016 presidential election. Any interference in our election process, or any cyber threat to our nation, is a grave menace to our democracy. We need a complete accounting of what happened, how it occurred, whether any Americans were involved, and how further interference in our elections can be prevented.

Therefore, I am calling on you to instruct the highest ranking official at the Department of Justice who was not selected by President Trump, to appoint a special independent prosecutor to lead this ongoing investigation. This must happen immediately if the trust of the American people in the Department of Justice is to be restored.

Our 17 intelligence agencies have concluded with high confidence that the Russian government directly interfered in the 2016 election by hacking the Democratic National Committee, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and the email accounts of senior campaign officials of Secretary Hillary Clinton. Other independent and reliable sources also have confirmed that Russian servers were responsible for creating and spreading false election-related news. Foreign interference in our nation's democratic process is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated.

Recent actions by the Administration and members of Congress have called into question the ability of the inquiry to remain independent and free from political influence from the White House. Polling from recent days shows that 78% of the Americans support an independent investigation. The latest reports from the *New York Times* that the President may have pressured FBI Director James Comey to drop the investigation into former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn – if true – are alarming revelations that the White House attempted to interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation.

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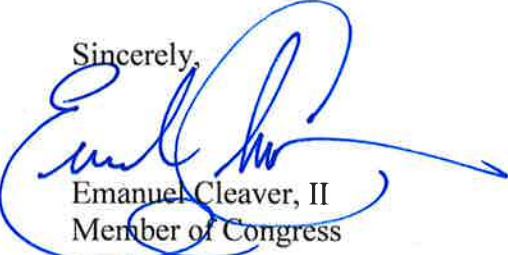
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An independent special prosecutor must be appointed immediately. They also need the cleared staff and resources fully dedicated to this investigation with all the necessary access and cooperation with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) within the Treasury Department and the intelligence community in order to follow the facts wherever they lead. This will ensure that the Constitutional processes are maintained and the integrity of our American governmental process is restored.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emanuel Cleaver, II', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress