

UNCLASSIFIED

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 2, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Ambassador Richard Grenell
Acting Director
Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Dear Ambassador Grenell:

On January 28, 2020, we sent a classified letter to Attorney General Barr requesting that he declassify four footnotes that we identified after reviewing the Justice Department Inspector General's classified report on the Crossfire Hurricane investigation.¹ In the unclassified cover letter, which we have attached hereto, we explained that this classified information provides insight essential for an accurate evaluation of the entire investigation, and the public interest in the disclosure of the information outweighs the need to protect it.

Since sending that letter, we have had very fruitful discussions with the Justice Department. We very much appreciate Attorney General Barr's focus on transparency and his understanding that this important information ought to be public. However, there are several sections of the footnotes that certain members of the Intelligence Community are concerned about declassifying. Accordingly, we are forwarding you our classified letter to Attorney General Barr, and we request that you ensure that all the footnotes are declassified to the fullest extent possible so that the American people have a full understanding of what transpired during the Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Joshua Flynn-Brown of Chairman Grassley's staff at (202) 224-4515 or Joseph Folio of Chairman Johnson's staff at (202) 224-4751. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Finance

Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs

¹ U.S. Dep't of Justice, Office of Inspector Gen., Review of Four FISA Applications and Other Aspects of the FBI's Crossfire Hurricane Investigation (Dec. 2019), <https://www.justice.gov/storage/120919-examination.pdf>.

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(UNCLASSIFIED when separated from attachment)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 28, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr:

(U) The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Finance are continuing oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and its Crossfire Hurricane investigation. We have reviewed the classified report of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) with regard to the FBI's Crossfire Hurricane investigation, and we are deeply concerned about certain information that remains classified.¹ Specifically, we are concerned that certain sections of the public version of the report are misleading because they are contradicted by relevant and probative classified information redacted in four footnotes. This classified information is significant not only because it contradicts key statements in a section of the report, but also because it provides insight essential for an accurate evaluation of the entire investigation. The American people have a right to know what is contained within these four footnotes and, without that knowledge, they will not have a full picture as to what happened during the Crossfire Hurricane investigation. Congress and the Executive Branch should not be the only custodians of this information and the public interest in the disclosure of the information outweighs the need to protect it.

(U) Consequently, we are writing to respectfully request that you, pursuant to the declassification authority delegated to you by the President over matters related to this investigation, fully declassify the four footnotes to ensure that this information is made available to the American people.² We are enclosing a classified letter that identifies these four footnotes and explains the importance of this information to a complete understanding of the OIG report and the underlying Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

¹ U.S. Dep't of Justice, Office of Inspector Gen., Review of Four FISA Applications and Other Aspects of the FBI's Crossfire Hurricane Investigation (Dec. 2019), <https://www.justice.gov/storage/120919-examination.pdf>.

² Memorandum on Agency Cooperation with Attorney General's Review of Intelligence Activities Relating to the 2016 Presidential Campaigns (May 23, 2019), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-agency-cooperation-attorney-generals-review-intelligence-activities-relating-2016-presidential-campaigns/>.

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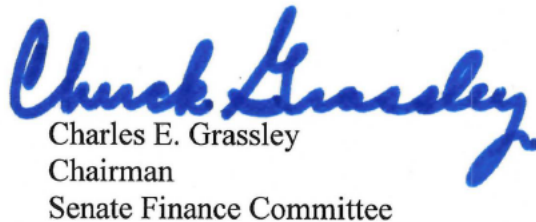
(U) Should you have any questions, please contact Joseph Folio of Chairman Johnson's staff at (202) 224-4751 and Joshua Flynn-Brown of Chairman Grassley's staff at (202) 224-4515.

(U) Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Chairman
Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee

Encl: Classified Letter to Attorney General Barr

cc: The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General

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(UNCLASSIFIED when separated from attachment)