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December 12, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to commend you for directing the U.S. Intelligence Community (USIC) to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the election-related hacking attacks and to issue a report before the end of your term. It is clear that there is bipartisan, bicameral demand on Capitol Hill for the findings of this investigation, and I believe that Congress is eager to take action in response to such deliberate interference by a foreign nation.

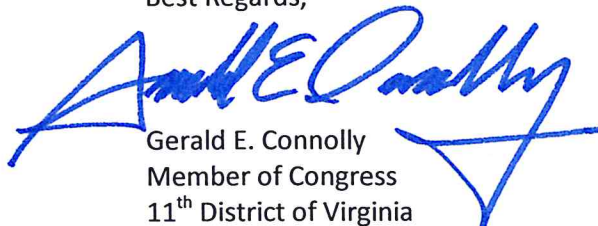
Following the USIC's assertion that "the Russian Government directed the recent compromises of emails from U.S. persons and Institutions, including from U.S. political organizations" on October 7, 2016, the American people have been demanding a response. These actions by Russia constitute an assault on our democracy. We cannot allow Russia to undermine people's faith in our democratic institutions.

On November 17, 2016, I led a letter with 15 other Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee to Ranking Member Eliot Engel, requesting a hearing on this very issue. That same day, Ranking Member Elijah Cummings also called for a hearing in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. As the *Washington Post* reported, many Republican leaders in the Senate and House have expressed deep concerns over Russian interference in the presidential election, and also continued efforts by their government to penetrate our institutions through cyber attacks.

I hope that this investigation will address what interference took place, how it happened, and how we can prevent such actions going forward in order to preserve the integrity of the U.S. electoral process. There is broad support to respond to Russia's meddling and the report you have ordered will help inform appropriate Congressional action.

Thank you for prioritizing an investigation into this critical issue during the final weeks of your term. Understanding the nature and scope of this threat will better enable us to combat deliberate attempts by foreign governments to influence future U.S. elections.

Best Regards,

  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress  
11<sup>th</sup> District of Virginia