

United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Financial Services  
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 15, 2017

Honorable Jeb Hensarling  
Chairman  
Committee on Financial Services  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Stevan Pearce  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Terrorism and Illicit Finance  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Andy Barr  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Ann Wagner  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Bill Huizenga  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Securities  
and Investments  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and  
Consumer Credit  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Sean P. Duffy  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Hensarling, Huizenga, Luetkemeyer, Duffy, Barr, Wagner and Pearce:

On February 13, 2017, U.S. National Security Advisor Michael T. Flynn resigned, effective immediately, from his position. Press reports indicate that he lied to the FBI with respect to conversations he had regarding U.S. sanctions against Russia late last year with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, and the U.S. Justice Department had informed President Trump and other White House officials that this made General Flynn “vulnerable to Russian blackmail” weeks ago.

Just last week, our Members affirmed our bipartisan commitment to monitor the Administration’s implementation of sanctions and hold those targeted for sanctions accountable. Indeed, this Committee’s Oversight Plan makes clear that the Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee will monitor the implementation of financial sanctions, as well as any proposals to expand such sanctions or impose new ones. Similarly, the Committee affirmed that the Subcommittee on Terrorism and Illicit Finance will monitor the activities of Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), which administers and enforces economic sanctions based on U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives against targeted foreign countries, including Russia.

Honorable Jeb Hensarling  
Honorable Stevan Pearce  
Honorable Andy Barr  
Honorable Ann Wagner  
Honorable Bill Huizenga  
Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Honorable Sean Duffy

Page 2

February 15, 2017

In light of the revelations regarding General Flynn's communications with Russia, we urge the Committee to begin an immediate investigation to understand the nature of these communications, and in particular, when President Trump and other senior officials may have learned about the communications, and the extent to which they may have been involved.

The timing of General Flynn's resignation is highly suspicious and raises doubts about whether Americans can trust this Administration. If the President did in fact request General Flynn's resignation due to a supposed erosion of trust, as White House spokesperson Sean Spicer claims, why did the President wait weeks to make the decision, and why was General Flynn allowed to continue to have access to classified information?

Contrary to the White House statements, General Flynn's resignation appears to be in direct response to the press reports in which it was revealed that in late January, former acting U.S. Attorney General Sally Yates informed the White House that General Flynn had misled U.S. officials about his calls with the Russian Ambassador. As has been revealed in the press, General Flynn discussed lifting U.S. sanctions against Moscow with Kislyak on December 29, 2016. Not coincidentally, December 29th was the same day that former President Obama issued the sanctions in response to Russian interference in the U.S. presidential campaign.

The only "erosion of trust" that has occurred is that between the American public and this President and Vice President. The Trump Administration ignored the Department of Justice's warnings, and chose to remain silent until recent press reports exposed to the public that the Administration was well aware of General Flynn's conduct late last month.

Indeed, given that U.S. intelligence confirmed the involvement of Russia in the Presidential election, we are deeply concerned the previously undisclosed communications General Flynn had with Russia indicate a potential *quid pro quo* arrangement whereby he made commitments on behalf of the Trump Administration to lift sanctions imposed by former President Obama, either in turn for interfering in the election or for some other potential benefit.

The conduct engaged in by the former National Security Advisor is another example of why this Administration must be held to account for its actions. The Americans had substantial concerns about Trump's ties to Russia, and this most recent event only serves to validate them.

Honorable Jeb Hensarling  
Honorable Stevan Pearce  
Honorable Andy Barr  
Honorable Ann Wagner  
Honorable Bill Huizenga  
Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Honorable Sean Duffy

Page 3  
February 15, 2017

For these reasons, we request this Committee begin an immediate investigation into General Flynn's ties to Russia, including any commitments made regarding the Trump Administration's sanctions policy towards the Kremlin and whether the President or other officials authorized General Flynn's communications with the Russian government.

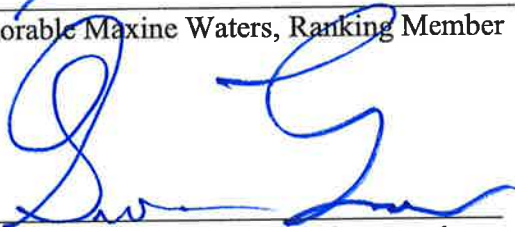
Sincerely,



Honorable Maxine Waters, Ranking Member



Honorable Daniel Kildee, Vice Ranking Member



Honorable Gwen Moore, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Monetary Policy & Trade




Honorable Al Green, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations



Honorable Ed Perlmutter, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Terrorism and Illicit Finance



Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Financial Institutions &  
Consumer Credit



Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Securities  
& Investment



Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Housing & Insurance