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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

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Paul Erickson



Dear Mr. Erickson:

In May 2016, you were involved in efforts to broker a meeting between Alexander Torshin – someone you described as “President Putin’s emissary” – and top officials for the Trump campaign.¹ In your communications with the Trump campaign about this meeting, you said that you had been “cultivating a back-channel to President Putin’s Kremlin” and that the “Kremlin believes that the only possibility of a true reset in this relationship would be with a new Republican White House.”² Given these interactions, we believe you may have information that would assist the Committee in its investigation related to Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Accordingly, we are writing to request documents and schedule an interview in February 2018.

Around the same time as your outreach to the Trump campaign, Mr. Torshin and Russian national Maria Butina reportedly were involved in other efforts to arrange a meeting between Mr. Torshin and then-candidate Donald Trump or his campaign.³ Mr. Torshin is a “senior Russian official who claimed to be acting at the behest of President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia.”⁴ Ms. Butina has described herself as a “representative of the Russian Federation” and a “connection between

¹ Nichola Fandos, “Operative Offered Trump Campaign ‘Kremlin Connection’ Using N.R.A. Ties,” N.Y. Times (Dec. 3, 2017).

² *Id.*

³ Manu Raju, “Exclusive: How a request about Russians made its way from West Virginia to Trump’s team,” CNN (Aug. 28, 2017).

⁴ Matt Apuzzo et al., “Top Russian Official Tried to Broker ‘Backdoor’ Meeting Between Trump and Putin,” N.Y. Times (Nov. 17, 2017).

Team Trump and Russia.”⁵ You have had ties to Mr. Torshin and Ms. Butina for several years.

Ms. Butina hosted you in Moscow at the 2014 annual meeting for her organization, the Right to Bear Arms.⁶ In December 2015, you traveled to Moscow for another meeting with Ms. Butina’s organization,⁷ along with Sheriff David Clarke, a Trump campaign surrogate, and David Keene, the former NRA president who also has ties to Ms. Butina and Mr. Torshin.⁸ In February 2016, you and Ms. Butina formed Bridges, LLC, a South Dakota limited liability corporation.

The Intelligence Community has concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 election, with the goal of undermining faith in our democratic processes and harming Secretary Clinton’s candidacy.⁹ As explained in the January 6, 2017 Intelligence Community assessment: “We further assess Putin and the Russian Government developed a clear preference for President-elect Trump.”¹⁰

The Committee is investigating these matters, and ask that you provide the following documents in advance of your interview with the Committee, covering the time period from June 15, 2015 to the present:

1. All communications to, from, or copied to you with anyone associated with the campaign of Donald J. Trump;
2. All communication to, from, or copied to you with Alexander Torshin, Maria Butina, Rick Clay, David Clarke, Rick Dearborn, Johnny Yenason, David Keene, or Dmitry Rogozin relating to Donald Trump or the 2016 presidential campaign;
3. All documents and communications concerning the 2016 National Rifle Association convention and related events in Louisville, Kentucky related to Donald Trump or the 2016 presidential campaign;

⁵ Tim Mak, “The Kremlin and GOP Have a New Friend – and Boy, Does She Love Guns,” Daily Beast, (Feb. 23, 2017).

⁶ Nichola Fandos, “Operative Offered Trump Campaign ‘Kremlin Connection’ Using N.R.A. Ties,” N.Y. Times (Dec. 3, 2017).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Josh Israel, “Why has the NRA been cozying up to Russia?,” Think Progress (Nov. 23, 2016).

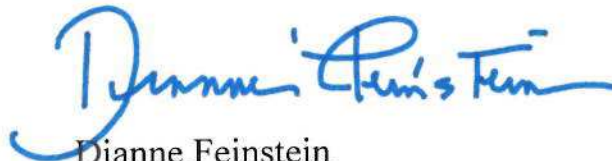
⁹ Office of the Director of National Intelligence, “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections,” ICA 2017-01D, January 6, 2017, at 2-3.

¹⁰ Office of the Director of National Intelligence, “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections,” ICA 2017-01D, January 6, 2017, at 1.

4. All communications concerning meetings or possible meetings between
(a) Russian officials, associates, or representatives, including any individuals who purported to act or whom you believed to be acting on behalf of or in concert with Russian government officials, associates, or representatives, and
(b) representatives, associates, or advisors of the campaign of Donald Trump for president;
5. All documents concerning financial support or the provision of anything of value by foreign nationals, directly or indirectly, to the campaign of Donald Trump for president; and
6. Documents sufficient to (a) describe the mission or business purpose of Bridges, LLC, and (b) identify its officers and directors.

I appreciate your cooperation and prompt attention to this important matter and ask that you provide the requested material as soon as possible, but no later than February 7, 2018. Please contact Brian Privor on my staff at (202) 224-7703 to schedule your interview and discuss arrangements for document production.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Grassley