

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA, CHAIRMAN

ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH
LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
MICHAEL S. LEE, UTAH
TED CRUZ, TEXAS
BEN SASSE, NEBRASKA
JEFF FLAKE, ARIZONA
MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA

DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
AL FRANKEN, MINNESOTA
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT
MAZIE HIRONO, HAWAII

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

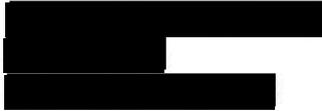
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, Chief Counsel and Staff Director
JENNIFER DUCK, Democratic Staff Director

June 22, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch



Dear Ms. Lynch,

On April 22, 2017, *The New York Times* reported that during the investigation of Russian hacking against political organizations in the United States, the FBI “received a batch of hacked documents” from U.S. intelligence agencies that had access to stolen materials stored on Russian networks.¹ One of the documents provided to the FBI reportedly appeared to have implications on the then-ongoing Clinton email investigation. Specifically, the FBI is reported to have obtained an email or memo “written by a Democratic operative who expressed confidence that Ms. Lynch would keep the Clinton investigation from going too far.”² According to anonymous government officials cited in the report, the discovery of the document “complicated” how FBI and the Justice Department would interact in the investigation because “[i]f Ms. Lynch announced that the case was closed, and Russia leaked the document, Mr. Comey believed it would raise doubts about the independence of the investigation.”³ Similar concerns were raised by Director Comey during this Committee’s May 3, 2017 oversight hearing:

The normal way to do it would be have the Department of Justice announce it, and I struggled, as we got closer to the end of it, with -- a number things had gone on, some of which I cannot talk about yet, that made me worry that the Department leadership could not credibly complete the investigation and decline prosecution without grievous damage to the American people's confidence in the justice system.

And then the capper was -- and I am not picking on the Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, who I like very much. But her meeting with President Clinton on that airplane was the capper for me. And I

¹ Matt Apuzzo, Michael S. Schmidt, Adam Goldman, and Eric Lichtblau, *Comey Tried to Shield the F.B.I. From Politics. Then He Shaped an Election*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Apr. 22, 2017).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

then said, you know what? The Department cannot by itself credibly end this.

On May 24, 2017, *The Washington Post* reported that in early March 2016 the FBI had received “what was described as a Russian intelligence document” that “cited a supposed email describing how then-Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch had privately assured someone in the Clinton campaign that the email investigation would not push too deeply into the matter.”⁴ More specifically, the Russian intelligence document reportedly “referred to an email supposedly written by the then-chair of the Democratic National Committee, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and sent to Leonard Benardo, an official with the Open Society Foundations.”⁵ According to the article: “[i]n the supposed email, Wasserman Schultz claimed Lynch had been in private communication with a senior Clinton campaign staffer named Amanda Renteria during the campaign. The document indicated Lynch had told Renteria that she would not let the FBI investigation into Clinton go too far”⁶

In order for the Committee to assess the situation, please respond to the following questions and provide the relevant documents by July 6, 2017:

1. Did anyone from the FBI ever discuss or otherwise mention to you emails, memos, or reports such as those described in these media reports?
2. Are you aware of the existence of any email, memo, or report such as those described in the cited media reports? If so, when and how did you become aware of the document’s existence? Did you have any reason to doubt the authenticity of this document?
3. To the best of your knowledge, have you ever communicated with Amanda Renteria? If so, when and did you discuss the Clinton investigation? If so, please describe the communications and provide all records relating to them.
4. To the best of your knowledge, did any of your Justice Department staff or your other associates communicate with Amanda Renteria? If so, who, what did they discuss, and when did the communications occur?
5. During your time in the Justice Department, did you ever have communications with Rep. Wasserman Schultz, her staff, her associates, or any other current or former DNC officials about the Clinton email investigation? If so, please describe the communications and provide all records relating to them.
6. To the best of your knowledge, did any of your Justice Department staff or your other associates communicate with Rep. Wasserman Schultz, her staff, her associates, or any

⁴ Karoun Demirjian and Devlin Barrett, *How a Dubious Russian Document Influenced the FBI’s Handling of the Clinton Probe*, THE WASHINGTON POST (May 24, 2017).

⁵ *Id.*

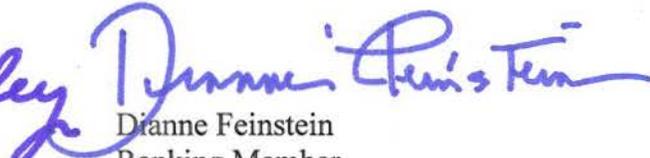
⁶ *Id.*

other current or former DNC officials about the Clinton email investigation? If so, please describe the communications and provide all records relating to them.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Davis of Chairman Grassley's staff at (202) 224-5225, Heather Sawyer of Ranking Member Feinstein's staff at (202) 224-7703, Lee Holmes of Chairman Graham's staff at (202) 224-5972, or Lara Quint of Ranking Member Whitehouse's staff at (202) 224-2921.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary


Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary


Lindsey O. Graham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
Committee on the Judiciary


Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
Committee on the Judiciary