

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

August 12, 2017

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

William Browder  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hermitage Capital Management  
London, United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Browder:

On August 9, 2017, the Washington Post published an article purporting to fact check the following statement by White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders: “The Democrat-linked firm Fusion GPS actually took money from the Russian government while it created the phony dossier that’s been the basis for all of the Russia scandal fake news.”<sup>1</sup> However, some of the Post’s “facts” contradict information the Committee has received, particularly some important details from your sworn testimony before the Committee on July 27, 2017.

The Post disputed Sanders’ claim that Fusion received money from the Russian government. The Post argues that layers of separation between Fusion and the Russian government serves as evidence that money received by Fusion did not come from the Russian government. The Post asserted:

Moreover, there is no evidence Fusion took money from the Russian government. It worked on behalf of an American law firm, which was hired by a company owned by a Russian whose father is a government official.<sup>2</sup>

Although the Post later quotes one phrase from an interview with you to support its conclusion, the article contradicts your sworn testimony on this point without mentioning it.<sup>3</sup> In your testimony, you explained how the Russian government funded the Prevezon lawsuit through senior government official Pyotr Katsyv, whose son owns Prevezon Holdings.<sup>4</sup> You also testified that the Russian government operates by taking shares of certain people’s wealth and

---

<sup>1</sup> Glenn Kessler, *Fact Checker: Trump, Russia and the Opposition Research Firm Run by Ex-journalists*, WASH. POST (Aug. 9, 2017) [hereinafter Washington Post Fusion GPS Fact Check]; Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders (Aug. 1, 2017 2:25 PM), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/08/01/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-812017-4>.

<sup>2</sup> Washington Post Fusion GPS Fact Check.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* (“Even Browder, a fierce critic of Fusion, said in an interview the White House is ‘conflating two issues.’”).

<sup>4</sup> Hearing before Sen. Comm. on the Judiciary at 17–18 (July 27, 2017) [hereinafter Hearing transcript] (statement of William Browder) (“The Katsyv family were paying the bills.”).

then relying on those people to do foreign policy work to further Putin's agenda "in situations where it may not be appropriate or they may not want to show the government's face."<sup>5</sup>

Additionally, the Post dismissed the notion that Fusion engaged in public relations advocacy against the Magnitsky Act, arguing that Fusion's work was limited to litigation assistance in the Prevezon case. The Post stated:

As far as we can determine, there is little evidence Fusion itself was involved in the anti-Magnitsky advocacy, even if the fruits of its research may have aided foes of the Magnitsky law. Browder suggests the timing of Fusion's activities is questionable. He said Fusion contacted reporters between April and June 2016, when lobbying activity against the expansion of the Magnitsky law was in full swing. The court case, however, was still pending.<sup>6</sup>

Yet, the Post article itself acknowledges that Fusion "discussed the case record with several reporters."<sup>7</sup> You also testified that reporters had contacted you after being pitched derogatory information about you by Mr. Simpson in an attempt to undermine the Magnitsky Act in the press.<sup>8</sup>

The article's conclusion is directly at odds with your sworn testimony. Given the significance and importance of that testimony, it is important for the Committee to have a clear understanding of any responses you may have to the Post's characterization of the "facts." Accordingly, please provide any clarifying responses to the article you believe are appropriate and answer the following questions:

1. Do you stand by your testimony that Fusion GPS received money from the Russian government? Please explain.
2. How does the Russian government structure its arrangements for agents to do propaganda work on its behalf in other countries?
3. How does the Russian government make payments to its agents?
4. Do you stand by your testimony that Fusion GPS' work in the Prevezon case was not limited to litigation support research, but also included an anti-Magnitsky propaganda campaign as well? Please explain.
5. After reading the Post article, do you still believe that Fusion GPS should have registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act? Please explain.

---

<sup>5</sup> Hearing transcript at 281.

<sup>6</sup> Washington Post Fusion GPS Fact Check.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> Hearing transcript at 17.

6. According to the article you agreed with its conclusion: “Even Browder, a fierce critic of Fusion, said in an interview the White House is ‘conflating two issues.’” Is that quote a fair representation of all your communications with the Post for the article?
7. The Post gave Sanders “Three Pinocchios” for the statement that, “The Democrat-linked firm Fusion GPS actually took money from the Russian government while it created the phony dossier that’s been the basis for all of the Russia scandal fake news.”

The factual elements of that statement most important to your testimony for the purposes of the Committee’s work are: (1) Fusion GPS took money from the Russian government, and (2) it did so while it was working on the Trump dossier (reportedly for another client who supported Hillary Clinton).

Your sworn testimony was that the first element is true. To the best of your knowledge, is the second element true as well?

If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Brennan of my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary