

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 17, 2019

The Honorable Ron Wyden
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

I write in response to your December 6, 2019, statement reacting to the decision Chairman Graham, Chairman Johnson, and I recently made to request interviews with Alexandra Chalupa and Andrii Telizhenko.¹

These interview requests are part of ongoing oversight work that I began over two years ago. I started investigating allegations of coordination between Alexandra Chalupa, a former consultant for the DNC, and Ukrainian embassy officials on July 20, 2017.² At the time, the Senate Judiciary Committee was conducting oversight of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) and had initiated a bipartisan investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. When reports surfaced that Ms. Chalupa had met with officials at the Ukrainian embassy for the express purpose of acquiring derogatory information on Trump campaign officials to undermine the Trump campaign and assist the Clinton campaign, I wrote then-Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein to understand what actions the DOJ was taking regarding these reports.³ In my letter, I asked whether the DOJ was investigating the allegations reported in the press and what steps it was taking to ensure that Ms. Chalupa was in compliance with the requirements of FARA. I also raised concerns that Mr. Telizhenko, a Ukrainian embassy official, told *Politico* he had been instructed by the Ukrainian embassy to assist Ms. Chalupa with research to undermine the Trump campaign.

Despite repeated inquiries from my office, the DOJ never fully answered my July 2017 letter. When the DOJ announced in September of this year that it was "exploring the extent to which ... Ukraine, played a role in the counterintelligence investigation" during the 2016 election, I renewed my 2017 request, and I asked Chairman Johnson to join me in doing so.⁴ In

¹ Press Release, Hon. Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee, Wyden Statement on Republican Chairmen Laundering Russian Propaganda (Dec. 6, 2019), <https://www.finance.senate.gov/ranking-members-news/wyden-statement-on-republican-chairmen-laundering-russian-propaganda> -.

² Letter from Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, to Hon. Rod J. Rosenstein, Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice (July 20, 2017), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/sites/default/files/constituents/2017-07-20%20CEG%20to%20DOJ%20%28Ukraine%20DNC%20FARA%29.pdf>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Letter from Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, and Hon. Ron Johnson, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, to Hon. William Barr, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice (September 27, 2019), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/sites/default/files/2019-09-27%20CEG%20RHJ%20to%20DOJ%20%28Ukraine%20DNC%29.pdf>; Jeff Mordock, *John Durham investigating Ukraine in*

addition, on November 22, 2019, Chairman Johnson and I again wrote to Attorney General Barr as well as Director Wray to request records from the DOJ and FBI pertaining to Ms. Chalupa.⁵ According to news reports, Ms. Chalupa may have been interviewed and her personal devices may have been imaged by the FBI when she was the victim of a potential cyberattack in 2016.⁶ On November 22, 2019, Chairman Johnson and I also wrote to the National Archives and Records Administration to request relevant records of White House meetings that took place in 2016 between and among Obama Administration officials, Ukrainian government representatives, and DNC officials.⁷ To the extent that they exist, Chairman Johnson and I believe these records may inform our investigation into Ms. Chalupa's interactions with Ukrainian embassy officials and Obama administration officials. Importantly, these oversight efforts are in no way related to the debunked theory that Ukraine hacked or currently possesses the DNC servers.

The interviews Chairman Graham, Chairman Johnson, and I requested on December 6, 2019, are a natural extension of the aforementioned efforts. My concern has always been to ensure that we have maximum transparency into the extent Ukraine meddled in our 2016 election and that *any* foreign interests or persons who seek to influence our political process on behalf of a foreign power register with the DOJ as required under FARA. I know you share my concerns about protecting our elections from foreign interference and hope we can work together to establish stronger protections for our political process in the future.

As you know, I take my oversight responsibilities seriously and believe that transparency and accountability are critical to ensure the success of our democracy. Respectfully, the allegation that we are "acting as an arm of the Russians or the president's attorney" is patently false. As you know, I engage in oversight regardless of who is in power and have conducted oversight of the last eight Presidential administrations, Democrat and Republican, as a member of the House of Representatives and Senate. I have also conducted oversight of the current Administration. During the Judiciary Committee's Russia investigation, I worked with Senator Feinstein to depose many participants in the 2016 meeting at Trump Tower, including the President's son, Donald Trump Jr. I also agreed to subpoena Paul Manafort.

Americans deserve more than partisan politics. They deserve answers. I look forward to working with you on the many important investigations that we have initiated together, including our investigations into the rising cost of insulin medications and non-profit medical groups

Trump-Russia origins probe, THE WASHINGTON TIMES (Sept. 25, 2019),

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/sep/25/john-durham-probing-ukraine-as-part-of-trump-russi/>.

⁵ Letter from Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, and Hon. Ron Johnson, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, to Hon. William Barr, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, and Hon. Christopher A. Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Nov. 22, 2019),

<https://www.grassley.senate.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019-11-22%20CEG%20RHJ%20to%20DOJ%20FBI%20%28Chalupa%20Records%29.pdf>.

⁶ Michael Isikoff, *16 people who shaped the 2016 election: Alexandra Chalupa*, Yahoo News (Oct. 24, 2016),

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/16-people-who-shaped-the-2016-election-alexandra-chalupa-171541199.html>.

⁷ Letter from Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, and Hon. Ron Johnson, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, to Hon. David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (Nov. 21, 2019),

<https://www.grassley.senate.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019-11-21%20RHJ%20CEG%20to%20NARA%20-%20White%20House%20Meeting%20Records.pdf>.

peddling false narratives surrounding the opioid epidemic, as well as our efforts to ensure the safety of Iowans and Oregonians at facilities that care for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee