



U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Office of Congressional Affairs

Office of the Assistant Director

*935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535-0001*

June 27, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

This letter provides a response to your letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) dated June 17, 2025, requesting additional information regarding the September 25, 2020, Intelligence Information Report (“IIR”) from the FBI’s Albany Field Office. In response to your inquiry, the Office of Congressional Affairs (“OCA”) is committed to providing a substantive reply and production to ensure that you are fully informed of the facts surrounding the IIR, its recall, and subsequent investigative steps. Enclosed please find documents Bates FBI-SJC-IIR-000012 through FBI-SJC-IIR-000062.

Following a directive from FBI Headquarters, the IIR was recalled even though “the IIR was coordinated and disseminated in textbook fashion.”¹ This IIR prompted significant attention throughout FBI Headquarters. For instance, according to an email requesting the recall, it was noted that the “IIR AL sent out today is getting a lot of attention from all HQ divisions.”²

The recall was issued to “reinterview” the source. Although the source was reengaged and provided additional context to support the initial IIR, FBI Headquarters maintained its position not to republish the report. One reason cited for not releasing the IIR was because “the reporting will contradict Director Wray’s testimony.”³

Based on conversations with key individuals involved, it was conveyed that the recall of the IIR was abnormal. The rationale provided to Albany staff for the recall was that Headquarters deemed the report not “authoritative,” but this characterization was met with disagreement by those in the Albany office. Internal emails reflect that Albany staff had concerns that suppressing the IIR would be “dangerous if we cite potential political implications as reasons for not putting out our information,” emphasizing that it was not the role of analysts to align intelligence with public testimony.⁴ Albany staff further warned against FBI assuming the role of sole gatekeeper

¹ FBI-SJC-IIR-000027

² FBI-SJC-IIR-000055

³ FBI-SJC-IIR-000034

⁴ FBI-SJC-IIR-000033

for the Intelligence Community (“IC”), emphasizing that suppressing field-generated reporting could deprive other IC elements of the opportunity to corroborate or discredit intelligence.⁵

Although an Intelligence Analyst (“IA”) requested further research and re-engagement with the source, Headquarters ultimately decided not to issue a new IIR, citing a lack of additional substantiating information, even after the source was reinterviewed. As seen in today’s production, the source appeared to be reliable, and the FBI did not close the source for cause or lack of credible information.

Additional emails show that the Foreign Influence Task Force (“FITF”) did not approve reissuance of the IIR, citing concerns about authoritativeness and the potential for disinformation by foreign actors. However, other than a request for information to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, we have found no information to indicate that FITF-China aggressively investigated the reported information, despite corroborating intergovernmental reporting and logical investigative leads.

Finally, because of this episode, FBI Headquarters set a new requirement on the field for the 2020 election; “all raw reporting concerning the election will now require HQ coordination, which was not required” before.⁶

Overall, the records produced today reflect the broader sentiment within the Albany Field Office that the recall decision and resulting suppression of the IIR raised serious questions about the integrity of the intelligence reporting process and its susceptibility to perceived political pressures.

At this time, the FBI is unaware that any federal record preservation requirements were violated. Under records schedules approved by the National Archives and Records Administration (“NARA”), recalled or superseded intelligence reports may be removed from circulation and are not required to be permanently retained. While the underlying IIR was recalled, it was not permanently deleted from the Sentinel system. Likewise, at this early stage in our review, it appears that related communications were preserved. Nevertheless, because we are at an early stage of our review, we are continuing to evaluate the matter.

Today’s production contains minimal redactions to protect certain personally identifiable information, source identities, and law enforcement sensitive information. The FBI looks forward to continuing to engage with the Committee to address any questions related to this matter. Please note that this and subsequent productions may contain law enforcement sensitive material, including personally identifiable information, as well as other sensitive information. In accordance with transparency but balancing sensitive equities, we are willing to accommodate additional reviews of the sensitive materials by the Committee in an appropriate format. As such, although we welcome providing this material to the Committee, the Department of Justice and FBI do not

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ FBI-SJC-IIR-000047

waive any applicable privilege that might otherwise apply to these documents, especially with respect to any third parties.

We understand the importance of your oversight role and are committed to providing full transparency on this matter. Thank you for supporting the FBI, our mission, and our people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Yates', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marshall Yates
Assistant Director