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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

April 11, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Marco Rubio
 Secretary
 U.S. Department of State

Dear Secretary Rubio:

On June 17, 2024, I sent the Biden administration a letter that requested all email records of former Secretary of State Kerry.¹ My request was made in part with respect to Kerry's obstruction of the FBI's efforts to arrest Iranians which was done to protect the failed Iran Nuclear Deal. The Biden administration failed to answer and produce the requested records. Accordingly, on February 14, 2025, I sent you a letter that requested the same records.² The deadline to respond to that follow-up letter was February 28, 2025.³ However, as of April 11, 2025, I have yet to receive a response.

On March 11, 2025, my investigative staff emailed Stephanie Reed, the State Department Director of the Senate Liaison Office, for an explanation regarding its failure to respond by the deadline.⁴ Ms. Reed referred them to Paul Guaglianone, the senior official for the State Department's Bureau of Legislative Affairs.⁵ On March 12, 2025, my staff scheduled a call to discuss the status of State's response with Mr. Guaglianone, which occurred that same day.⁶ On the call, my staff clearly communicated my expectations regarding State's production of responsive records and answers to my letter.

However, by March 20, 2025, my staff had not received State's response or any updates on State's progress and scheduled a second call with Mr. Guaglianone the same day.⁷ On that call, he told my staff that the State Department had held meetings regarding the response to me, that the process to respond had already begun, and that State would provide a response soon.⁸

¹ Letter from Senator Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, and Senator Ron Johnson, Ranking Member, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to Antony Blinken, Secretary, U.S. Department of State, (June 17, 2024), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_johnson_to_state_-_kerry_emails.pdf.

² Letter from Senator Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, to Marco Rubio, Secretary, U.S. Department of State, (February 14, 2025), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_state_-_kerry_emails_follow-up.pdf.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Emails on file with Comm. staff.

⁵ Emails on file with Comm. staff.

⁶ Notes on file with Comm. staff.

⁷ Notes on file with Comm. staff.

⁸ Notes on file with Comm. staff.

Since that call, my staff emailed Mr. Guaglianone asking for updates on March 24, 2025; March 25, 2025; March 26, 2025; March 31, 2025; April 1, 2025; and April 4, 2025.⁹ He has failed to provide any substantive update. Also, my staff called him on March 24, 2025; April 1, 2025; and April 4, 2025, with no response or call back.¹⁰

Then, on April 5, 2025, Mr. Guaglianone emailed my staff that:

Investigation matters at the Department of State will be led by the Deputy Secretary of Management and Resources. President Trump's nominee for the position is currently on the executive calendar. We hope he will be confirmed this week and sworn into his position. Once he is in the building, we will be able to move forward on the requests.¹¹

My staff immediately emailed Mr. Guaglianone noting that my constitutional oversight requests to the State Department aren't contingent on a certain nominee being confirmed and further requested another phone call and explanation.¹² Mr. Guaglianone has ignored this email, too, and refused to schedule a call. As of April 11, 2025, Mr. Guaglianone has failed to provide an update of the progress, or lack thereof, State has made to respond to my request and has failed to schedule a phone call—or answer a phone call—with my staff to discuss.

Mr. Guaglianone's April 5, 2025, email also appears to be inconsistent with information he provided my staff via phone call on March 20, 2025, when he said the State Department had held meetings regarding the response to me, that the process to respond had already begun, and that State would provide a response soon.¹³ In light of his April 5, 2025, email which noted that there will be no forward movement on my constitutional oversight request unless and until a certain nominee is confirmed and "in the building," has any action been taken with respect to my records request as initially described by Mr. Guaglianone? Also, if State's work on my request had stopped, when did it stop and why? Please explain, in detail, the steps the State Department has taken to locate, identify, and produce former Secretary of State Kerry's emails.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Jace Pimentel of my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

⁹ Emails on file with Comm. staff.

¹⁰ Notes on file with Comm. staff.

¹¹ Emails on file with Comm. staff.

¹² Emails on file with Comm. staff.

¹³ Emails on file with Comm. staff.