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DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**AUG 27 2020**

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter of 14 August 2020 regarding an addendum to a 13 July 2020 letter sent to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Chairman Schiff, and Vice Chairman Warner regarding foreign interference in the upcoming 2020 U.S. federal elections.

I share your concerns about intelligence information being described in the press. As you know, any mention of classified materials in the public domain jeopardizes our sources and methods, and undermines the critical work of the Intelligence Community (IC) to protect our nation.

In response to your specific questions, I can confirm the IC did not create the classified addendum to the 13 July letter, nor did we authorize its creation. The IC was not consulted prior to its creation and subsequent release to the entire membership of the U.S. House of Representatives. Unfortunately, this addendum only draws selectively from a small number of IC reports and focuses on only one threat actor in the elections security space. In summary, the classified addendum apparently prepared by the aforementioned individuals, by no means reflects the full and complete analysis of the IC.

The Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, Mr. William Evanina, noted in a 07 August 2020 public statement on election security, that “many foreign actors have a preference for who wins the election, which they express through a range of overt and private statements; covert influence efforts are rarer” and that the IC is “primarily concerned about the ongoing and potential activity by China, Russia, and Iran.”

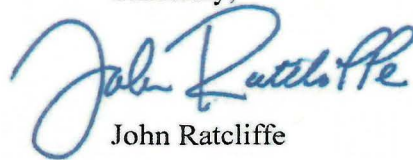
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The Honorable Ron Johnson

The IC remains focused on supporting the FBI and DHS countering all malign foreign influence, election interference, and keeping our 2020 U.S. federal elections secure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Ratcliffe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

John Ratcliffe