

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2018

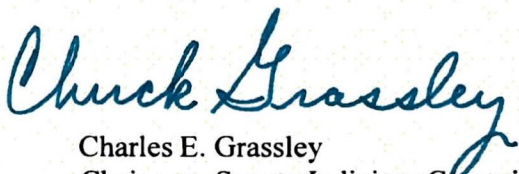
VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Rod J. Rosenstein
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice

On July 11, 2018, the Justice Department Inspector General provided to the Committees a classified appendix to its report entitled, "A Review of Various Actions by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Justice in Advance of the 2016 Election." As noted on page 154 of Chapter 5 of the OIG's unclassified report, the classified annex raises significant issues associated with the FBI's failure to review certain highly classified information in support of its ongoing investigation.¹ The additional and significant information demands immediate follow-up from the Justice Department, as well as an explanation as to why the Department failed to properly act on information in its possession. In light of the important recommendations made by the Inspector General, it is vital that the Department brief the Committees no later than August 10, 2018 on the steps it has taken, or plans to take, in light of the report's findings.

Please ensure that the briefers are prepared to explain to the Committees what steps the Department of Justice and FBI are currently taking to review the information and why Department personnel failed to either (1) take any investigative steps to assess the information in its possession, or (2) refer matters relating to alleged misconduct by senior department officials to the Inspector General for an independent review as required by Department policy.

Sincerely,

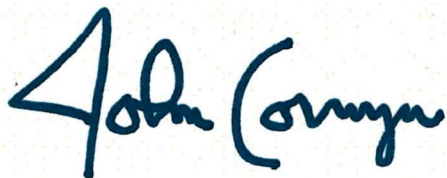


Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee



Bob Goodlatte
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee

¹ Unclassified Inspector General Report, p. 154. "In addition, as we describe in the classified appendix to this report, the OIG learned near the end of our review that the FBI had considered obtaining permission from the Department to review certain classified materials that may have included information potentially relevant to the Midyear investigation. Although the Midyear team drafted a memorandum to the Deputy Attorney General in late May 2016 stating that review of the highly classified materials was necessary to complete the investigation and requesting permission to access them, the FBI never sent this request to the Department. FBI witnesses told us that they did not seek access to these classified materials for various reasons, including that they believed this information would not materially impact the conclusion. The classified appendix describes in more detail the highly classified information, its potential relevance to the Midyear investigation, the FBI's reasons for not seeking access to it, and our analysis."



John Cornyn
Member, Senate Judiciary Committee



Trey Gowdy
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight
& Government Reform

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform