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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3311

September 10, 2018

The Honorable Rod Rosenstein  
Deputy Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Rosenstein:

As you may know, we recently received a new production of documents from the Department providing greater insight into FBI and DOJ activity during the 2016 election and the early stages of the Trump administration. Our review of these new documents raises grave concerns regarding an apparent systemic culture of media leaking by high-ranking officials at the FBI and DOJ related to ongoing investigations.

Review of these new documents suggests a coordinated effort on the part of the FBI and DOJ to release information in the public domain potentially harmful to President Donald Trump's administration. For example, the following text exchange should lead a reasonable person to question whether there was a sincere desire to investigate wrongdoing or to place derogatory information in the media to justify a continued probe.

April 10, 2017: Peter Strzok contacts Lisa Page to discuss a "media leak strategy." Specifically, the text says: "I had literally just gone to find this phone to tell you I want to talk to you about media leak strategy with DOJ before you go."

April 12, 2017: Peter Strzok congratulates Lisa Page on a job well done while referring to two derogatory articles about Carter Page. In the text, Strzok warns Page two articles are coming out, one which is "worse" than the other about Lisa's "namesake." Strzok added: "Well done, Page."

While these two text messages alone are troubling enough, events surrounding these interactions call the motives of the investigative team into question.

For example, while Strzok and Page texted about media leaks on April 10-12, 2017—during the same timeframe as FBI and DOJ officials were having conversations with reporters—the Washington Post broke a story on the Carter Page FISA application on April 11, 2017, setting off a flurry of articles suggesting connections between President Trump and Russia.<sup>(1)</sup> Other documents indicate DOJ officials, specifically Andrew Weissmann, participated in

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<sup>(1)</sup> *FBI obtained FISA warrant to monitor former Trump adviser Carter Page, Ellen Nakashima et al., The Washington Post, (April 11, 2017), available at <https://wapo.st/2MYQDSF>.*

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unauthorized conversations with the media during this same time period. Evidence suggests senior officials at the FBI and DOJ communicated with other news outlets beyond the Washington Post, as well.

During our interviews with Peter Strozik and Lisa Page, FBI attorneys consistently suggested witnesses could not answer questions due to the US Attorneys' Manual's policy for ongoing investigations. However, documents strongly suggest that these same witnesses discussed the ongoing investigations multiple times with individuals outside of the investigative team on a regular basis.

Our task force continues to receive troubling evidence that the practice of coordinated media interactions continues to exist within the DOJ and FBI. While this activity may be authorized and not part of the inappropriate behavior highlighted above, it fails to advance the private march to justice, and as such, warrants your attention to end this practice.

In light of the new information, our task force is requesting to review text messages, emails, and written communication from FBI and DOJ officials Stu Evans, Mike Kortan, and Joe Pientka between June 2016 to June 2017. To be clear, we are not suggesting wrongdoing on the part of Evans, Kortan, and Pientka—and, in fact, previously reviewed documents suggest that some of these individuals may share the committees' same concerns. However, these additional documents, with an emphasis on communication between the aforementioned individuals and Peter Strozik, Andrew McCabe, Lisa Page, Bruce Ohr and Andrew Weissmann, would provide critical insight into the backdrop of the Russia investigation.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform