

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Royce
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2017

Dear Chairman Royce:

We write to stress the urgent need for the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to investigate former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn's relationship with Russia, specifically whether he made promises to lift sanctions while he was a civilian after the 2016 election before President Trump took office. We believe General Flynn must appear before the Committee, under oath as soon as possible. General Flynn's resignation leaves many questions unanswered about his and President Trump's ties to Russia and whether American national security and intelligence operations have been compromised.

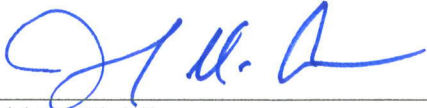
It has been widely reported that General Flynn spoke with Russian Ambassador to the United States Sergey Kislyak in late December shortly after the Obama Administration announced new sanctions on Russia due to its interference in the 2016 American presidential election. Since then, General Flynn has given conflicting answers as to whether he discussed those sanctions with Kislyak and whether he gave assurances to the Russian government that sanctions would be lifted under the Trump Administration. If he did so, he may have violated U.S. law. When American intelligence agencies and the Department of Justice learned of the details of Flynn's phone call, they warned the White House in late January that Flynn may be susceptible to blackmail. It does not appear that any action was taken by the White House to investigate this incident or review General Flynn's security clearance.

General Flynn's resignation yesterday leaves many important questions unanswered and the White House has indicated no willingness to address them. As stated in the House Foreign Affairs Committee Oversight Plan that was adopted on January 24, 2017, the Committee has jurisdiction over and will investigate "Kremlin-driven efforts to undermine the government, democratic and other institutions of the U.S. and other countries through cyber intrusions, propaganda and other tools." It continues, "The Committee will examine the range of options available to the U.S. to respond to these actions, including legislation to impose additional sanctions on Russia."

Our country's national security, independence, and democratic institutions are at stake. As the body within the House with jurisdiction over U.S. foreign policy, we would be negligent if we left the questions about this incident unanswered. We must investigate who from the Trump transition team was aware of contacts between General Flynn and Ambassador Kislyak, what was discussed, and what President Trump and Vice President Pence knew about this conversation and when they knew it.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee must use its authority to demand that General Flynn answer these questions, and shed light on his and the Trump Administration's relationship with the Russian government. The American people deserve these answers. We thank you for your attention to this matter.

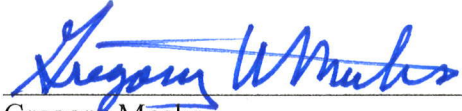
Sincerely,



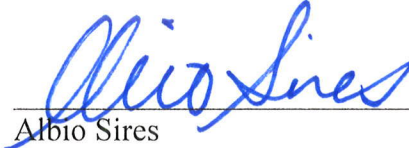
David N. Cicilline



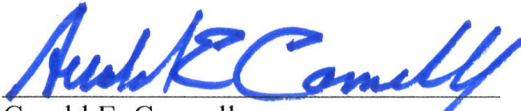
Brad Sherman



Gregory Meeks




Albio Sires



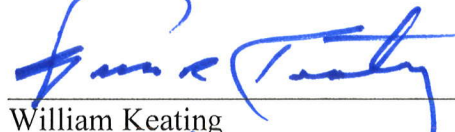
Gerald E. Connolly



Theodore E. Deutch




Karen Bass



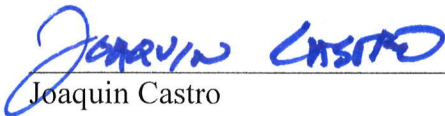
William Keating



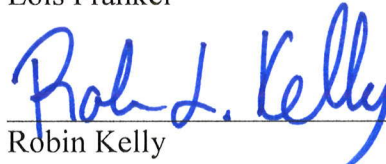
Ami Bera



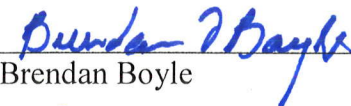
Lois Frankel



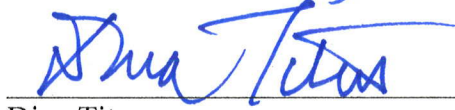
Joaquin Castro



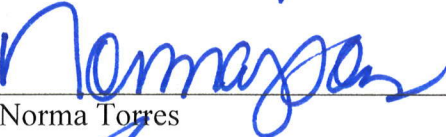
Robin Kelly



Brendan Boyle



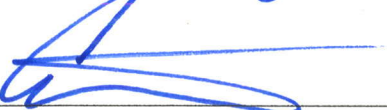
Dina Titus



Norma Torres



Thomas Suozzi



Adriano Espaillat



Ted Lieu



Bradley S. Schneider



Tulsi Gabbard