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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*  
JENNIFER DUCK, *Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

January 25, 2018

Joel Benenson  
Chief Strategist, Hillary for America  
Benenson Strategy Group  
777 3rd Avenue  
33rd Floor  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Benenson:

In October 2017, the *Washington Post* reported that Hillary for America and the Democratic National Committee had funded, via Fusion GPS, Christopher Steele's creation of a series of memos relying largely on Russian government sources to make allegations against Donald Trump and his associates.<sup>1</sup> A letter from the law firm Perkins Coie acknowledged that, "[t]o assist in its representation of the DNC and Hillary for America, Perkins Coie engaged Fusion GPS in April of 2016" and that "the engagement concluded prior to the November 2016 Presidential election."<sup>2</sup>

The Senate Judiciary Committee has a constitutional duty to conduct oversight of the FBI and the broader Department of Justice. Part of that duty involves ensuring that law enforcement efforts are conducted without improper political influence. Accordingly, the Committee has been investigating the FBI's relationship with Christopher Steele during this time his work was funded by Hillary for America and the DNC. The scope of our review includes the extent to which the FBI may have relied on information relayed by Mr. Steele in seeking judicial authorization for surveillance of individuals associated with Mr. Trump. It also includes whether any applications that may have been made for permission for such surveillance fully and accurately disclosed:

- (1) the source of Fusion GPS's and Mr. Steele's funding;
- (2) the degree to which his claims were or were not verified;
- (3) the motivations of Mr. Steele, his clients, and his sources; and
- (4) representations about their contacts with the press.

Understanding the extent of the Clinton campaign's knowledge of, and interactions with, Mr. Steele and others involved in Fusion GPS's work is essential to this inquiry.

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<sup>1</sup> Adam Entous, Devlin Barrett, Rosalind Helderman, *Clinton Campaign, DNC Paid For Research That Led to Russia Dossier*, THE WASHINGTON POST (Oct. 24, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4116754-Perkins-Coie-Letter.html>

In light of this, by February 8, 2018, please answer the following questions and provide the following requested documents:

1. Prior to the *Washington Post*'s article in October of 2017, were you or anyone else at Hillary for America<sup>3</sup> aware of Mr. Steele's efforts on behalf of the Clinton campaign to compile and distribute allegations about Mr. Trump and the Russian government? If so, when and how did you first learn of his activities on the campaign's behalf? Please provide all related documents.
2. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America receive copies of any of the memoranda comprising Mr. Steele's dossier prior to its publication by *Buzzfeed* in January of 2017? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
3. Regardless of whether you or others affiliated with the campaign received copies of the actual memoranda, did you or anyone else at Hillary for America otherwise receive information contained in the dossier prior to *Buzzfeed* publishing the dossier in January of 2017? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
4. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America receive other memoranda written or forwarded by Mr. Steele regarding Mr. Trump and his associates that were not published as part of the *Buzzfeed* dossier? If so, how and when? Please provide all related documents.
5. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America distribute outside of the organization any of the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list who distributed the information, what was distributed, and to whom it was distributed. Please provide all related documents.
6. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America communicate with any government officials – whether in the executive, legislative or judicial branches – regarding the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list the parties involved in the communication, the content of the communication, and the date and means of the communication. Please provide all related documents.
7. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America instruct, request, suggest, or imply that any individuals should pass along information to Mr. Steele or his intermediaries? Please provide all related documents.
8. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America communicate with members of the press regarding the dossier memoranda, information contained therein, or other information obtained by Mr. Steele? If so, please list the parties involved in the

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<sup>3</sup> References such as "anyone at Hillary for America" include all of Hillary for America's officers, employees, contractors, subcontractors, advisors, volunteers, and, of course, Secretary Clinton herself.

communication, the content of the communication, and the date and means of the communication. Please provide all related documents.

9. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America inform Secretary Clinton of Mr. Steele's efforts, whether by name or not, or of the allegations he was spreading? If so, who and when? Please provide all related documents.
10. Were you or anyone else at Hillary for America aware of Mr. Steele's contacts with the FBI or other government agencies prior to the 2016 election? If so, who? When and how did you or they become aware? Please provide all related documents.
11. Did you or anyone else at Hillary for America encourage, whether directly or through intermediaries, Mr. Steele to initiate or continue contacts with the FBI or other government agencies? If so, who and when? Please provide all related documents.
12. For the period from March 2016 through January 2017, please provide all communications to, from, copying, or relating to: Fusion GPS; Bean LLC; Glenn Simpson; Mary Jacoby; Peter Fritsch; Tom Catan; Jason Felch; Neil King; David Michaels; Taylor Sears; Patrick Corcoran; Laura Sego; Jay Bagwell; Erica Castro; Nellie Ohr; Rinat Akhmetshin; Ed Lieberman; Edward Baumgartner; Orbis Business Intelligence Limited; Orbis Business International Limited; Walsingham Training Limited; Walsingham Partners Limited; Christopher Steele; Christopher Burrows; Sir Andrew Wood, Paul Hauser;<sup>4</sup> Oleg Deripaska; Cody Shearer; Sidney Blumenthal; Jon Winer;<sup>5</sup> Kathleen Kavalec; Victoria Nuland; Daniel Jones;<sup>6</sup> Bruce Ohr; Peter Strzok; Andrew McCabe; James Baker;<sup>7</sup> Sally Yates; Loretta Lynch; John Brennan.

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<sup>4</sup> Paul E. Hauser – partner at Bryan Cave in London and attorney for Oleg Deripaska.

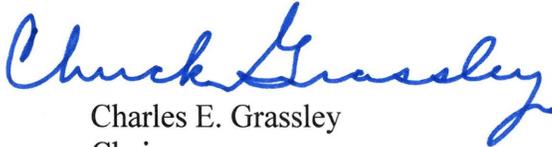
<sup>5</sup> Jonathan M. Winer – former State Department official.

<sup>6</sup> Daniel J. Jones – former Senate Intelligence Committee staffer for Senator Feinstein, current President of the Penn Quarter Group.

<sup>7</sup> James A. Baker – FBI official.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please contact Patrick Davis of Chairman Grassley's staff at (202) 224-5225 or Lee Holmes of Chairman Graham's staff at (202) 224-5972 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary



Lindsey O. Graham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism  
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism  
Committee on the Judiciary