



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUL 27 2017

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

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

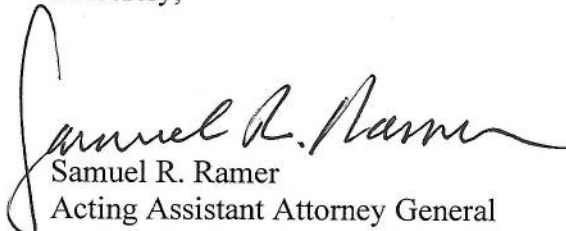
Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

This responds to your letters to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) executives Carl Ghattas and James Rybicki, dated July 11, 2017, requesting that they avail themselves to the Committee for transcribed interviews during the week of July 24, 2017.

As you know, on May 17, 2017, the Department of Justice (the Department) announced the appointment of Robert S. Mueller III to serve as Special Counsel to oversee the previously-confirmed FBI investigation of Russian government efforts to influence the 2016 presidential election and related matters. Under these circumstances and consistent with the Department's long-standing policy regarding the confidentiality and sensitivity of information relating to pending matters, the Department cannot make Mr. Ghattas nor Mr. Rybicki available for transcribed interviews at this time.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,


Samuel R. Ramer
Acting Assistant Attorney General