



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

October 26, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter dated September 20, 2017 inquiring whether the FBI ever provided the Trump campaign with a “defensive briefing.”

In August of 2016 the FBI provided a counterintelligence defensive briefing to then-candidate Donald Trump and other senior campaign officials. This defensive briefing was conducted by an experienced FBI counterintelligence agent and focused on the broad range of threats posed by foreign intelligence entities. Similar briefings were also provided to then-candidate Hillary Clinton and the two Vice Presidential candidates prior to the November election. FBI counterintelligence personnel also provided defensive briefings for both campaigns’ staff prior to the election. The FBI is not aware of any action(s) taken as a result of these briefings.

While the FBI does not maintain a specific policy governing when such briefings are to be provided, as you highlighted in your letter, defensive briefings are an essential FBI counterintelligence tool. These briefings can be provided to any individual with access to information that could be valuable to foreign intelligence actors, to include Executive Branch officials, Members of Congress, or private citizens. By increasing these individuals’ awareness of the indicators and warnings of foreign intelligence threats, they are often better postured to defend themselves and their organizations from foreign intelligence collection.

As always, thank you for your continuing support of the FBI.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Brower
Assistant Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

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