

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 31, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

Following the indictment of President Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, we are concerned that the President may seek to dismiss Special Counsel Robert Mueller or otherwise interfere with the inquiry in order to protect himself, members of his family, or senior officials in his administration. To deter the President from considering such an extreme step, we write to strongly urge you to issue a statement supporting Mueller's leadership of the investigation and specifying what steps you will take in the event that the President fires him or undermines his investigation.

As you know, Mueller is leading an independent investigation into ties between the Trump-Pence campaign and the Russian government. He was appointed by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein on May 17th following the President's decision to fire FBI Director James Comey, who was conducting a separate investigation into possible collusion by high-ranking Trump-Pence campaign officials with Russia. While the Administration initially offered multiple conflicting explanations for Comey's dismissal, President Trump subsequently confirmed that Comey was forced from office in order to block the Russia probe, explaining: "When I decided to just do it, I said to myself, I said, 'You know, this Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made up story.'"

In light of Manafort's indictment and a June 14<sup>th</sup> report in the *Washington Post* that President Trump is personally under investigation for obstruction of justice by Mueller's office, we fear that he may once again seek to impede an investigation into his campaign by firing its leader. Already, the Administration has attempted to discredit the work of Mueller and his expert legal team, variously describing the investigation as a "fishing expedition," a "witch hunt," and a "hoax," in addition to questioning its costs.

We strongly believe that firing the Special Counsel would represent a brazen attempt by the President to shield himself and his associates from the legal consequences of the Mueller investigation. It would also provide yet more convincing evidence that his campaign was guilty of illegally coordinating with a foreign power in order to influence the results of a presidential election. We therefore urge you to put partisan politics aside and issue a statement expressing your support for Mueller and clarifying what actions you will take in the event that he is dismissed or his investigation is disrupted.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

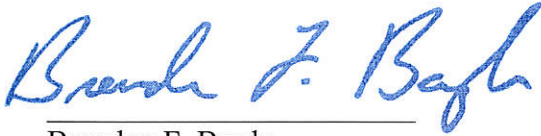
Sincerely,



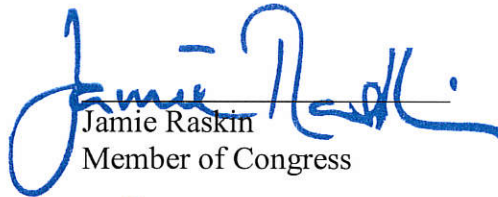
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
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