

United States Senate

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March 11, 2020

The Honorable Steve Linick
Inspector General
U.S. Department of State
Office of the Inspector General
SA-39
1700 North Moore Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209

The Honorable Richard K. Delmar
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of the Treasury
Office of the Inspector General
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Room 4436
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Joseph V. Cuffari
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office of the Inspector General
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, D.C. 20528-0305

The Honorable James Springs
Inspector General
National Archives and Records Administration
Office of the Inspector General
8601 Adelphia Road, Room 1300
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

Dear Inspectors General Linick, Delmar, Cuffari, and Springs:

Recent reports have revealed that certain executive branch agencies are cooperating with, or considering cooperating with, congressional investigations related to Hunter Biden, a private citizen, and his work on the board of an overseas gas company, Burisma.¹ These same agencies, however, refused to cooperate with other, legitimate congressional investigations into President Trump, most notably inquires by congressional committees charged with considering articles of impeachment against the president.² I am deeply concerned that the National Archives and the Departments of State, Treasury, and Homeland Security may not be applying a consistent test regarding inquiries made by Congress, choosing to comply with requests that are designed to damage the president's political opponents, but refusing to comply with requests into the activities of the president. This double standard threatens to make these agencies agents of the president's political campaign, in contravention of federal law.

I therefore write to request that you open an investigation into:

¹ See, e.g., Alan Rappoport, *Republicans in Senate press on with investigation into Hunter Biden*, N.Y. TIMES, Feb. 6, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/06/us/politics/hunter-biden-investigation.html>, Alana Goodman, *Confidential banking records related to Hunter Biden in Senate hands: report*, WASH. EXAMINER, Feb. 6, 2020, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics/confidential-banking-records-related-to-hunter-biden-in-senate-hands-report>.

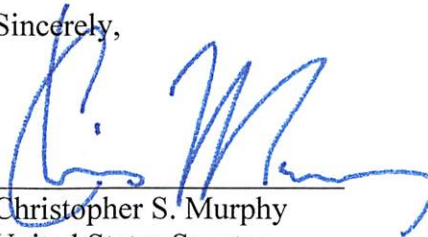
² See Toby Eckert, *Mnuchin dismisses IRS memo saying Congress must be given Trump's tax returns*, POLITICO, May 22, 2019, <https://www.politico.com/story/2019/05/22/steven-mnuchin-irs-trump-tax-returns-1339270>.

1. Whether your respective agency cooperated with any congressional requests related to the president's political opponents, including those associated with Hunter Biden or Burisma;
2. If so, to what extent your agency complied with such requests;
3. Whether your respective agency cooperated with congressional requests related to recent impeachment proceedings or the president's tax returns;
4. If so, to what extent your agency complied with such requests; and
5. Whether there has been a different standard applied to document requests for investigations related to the president's political opponents and document requests related to investigations of the president.

I am troubled that President Trump may be weaponizing the executive branch in advance of the 2020 elections by directing agencies to comply with congressional investigations designed to hurt his political opponents while stonewalling legitimate oversight investigations into the actions of his own administration.³

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I request your initial response by March 23, 2020. It is critical that executive branch agencies remain apolitical and not be made agents of a president's political operation or reelection campaign.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

³ See Charlie Savage, *Trump vows stonewall of 'all' House subpoenas, setting up fight over powers*, N.Y. TIMES, Apr. 24, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/24/us/politics/donald-trump-subpoenas.html>.