CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
CONNECTICUT

SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
HART 136
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4041

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

120 HUYSHOPE AVENUE
SUITE 401
HARTFORD, CT 06106
(860) 549-8463

http://murphy.senate.gov

September 20, 2019

The Honorable James E. Risch
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Risch,

In May, I officially requested that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee conduct oversight into reports that President Trump's personal lawyer, Rudolph Giuliani, was meeting with Ukrainian officials in order to influence U.S. elections. New reports about the President's potential direct involvement in that effort, including reported unspecified commitments made to the President of Ukraine, significantly heighten national security concerns and require that the Committee immediately hold a hearing to investigate these matters and their consequences for U.S. foreign policy.

I am attaching my original letter, which included a number of specific questions that I believed were essential for the Committee to present to the Administration. In addition to those questions, which remain relevant, there are a number of further questions that require answers. The House and Senate Intelligence Committees will understandably be involved in investigations into the specific Intelligence Community whistleblower complaint. However, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee must investigate the significant domestic and global national security implications of a sitting U.S. President either implicitly or explicitly tying U.S. foreign assistance to his political priorities. I would suggest that the Committee begin an inquiry, including a hearing involving all committee members, regarding the questions raised in my May letter, as well as the following additional questions:

1. Was it ever formal U.S. policy to condition the receipt of aid to Ukraine upon Ukraine's agreement to conduct investigations that would politically advantage the President?

2. When, specifically, was the decision to "review," i.e., withhold, the Ukraine funding ($250 million in the Pentagon's Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative and $141.5 million in State Department managed foreign military financing) made, and by what authority was that decision approved?

3. When the decision to withhold this funding was made, how was it communicated to the Ukrainian government, and by whom? Was the Ukrainian government provided any specific guidance regarding specific conditions that needed to be met before this assistance would be released? Was the Ukrainian government promised more or less

assistance, or any other incentives, based on its responsiveness to Mr. Giuliani's requests?

4. What are the implications of putting this assistance at risk for Ukraine's ability to defend itself against Russian aggression and maintain its own territorial sovereignty? Was there an assessment conducted by officials at the Department of Defense or Department of State regarding the potential security implications of withholding this assistance? What are the implications for U.S. interests in the region?

5. Following the reports in May about Mr. Giuliani's involvement in this effort to pressure the Ukrainian government for political purposes, and the subsequent public backlash, Mr. Giuliani canceled his trip to Ukraine. However, during recent meetings in Kyiv, we learned that Mr. Giuliani has continued to contact the Ukrainian government without informing the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, forcing President Zelensky's office to conduct parallel discussions with the Embassy and a separate track with Mr. Giuliani. This has understandably led to confusion about who really speaks for the President. To what extent has this dual-track affected official U.S. policy and interests in Ukraine?

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has a direct constitutional responsibility that rises above partisan politics to conduct oversight into these critical national security questions. We must not abdicate that duty. I appreciate your attention to this urgent issue and look forward to discussing the steps necessary for our committee to carry out the appropriate oversight regarding these questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

CC: Senator Robert Menendez, Ranking Member