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October 3, 2016

The Honorable James R. Clapper
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Director Clapper,

We are writing to request that you publicly present the Intelligence Community's (IC) assessment of the recent cyberattack against the Democratic National Committee (DNC), which has raised pressing questions about foreign interference in U.S. presidential elections.

In May 2016, you responded to a question about the possibility of cyberattacks against U.S. presidential campaigns by saying, "we have already had some indications of that, and a combination of DHS and FBI are doing what they can to educate both candidates of potential cyber threats." The gravity of these threats was made apparent on July 22, when Wikileaks publicly released approximately 20,000 emails stolen from the DNC's servers.

A report prepared by CrowdStrike, the firm hired by the DNC to investigate the breach, concluded that the attack was executed by two teams of hackers, both working on behalf of the Russian government. A separate analysis by Fidelis Cybersecurity reached the same conclusion. Moreover, past research has demonstrated connections between the Russian government and both Wikileaks and at least one of the hacking teams that carried out the attack. The Russian government has denied any involvement, but Russia's well-documented past use of cyber capabilities to influence the politics of other countries makes this claim less than convincing.

To this point, however, the American people have been forced to rely on a combination of open-source analysis, leaks from anonymous bureaucrats, and vague statements from senior officials to understand what has happened. For example, the *New York Times* has reported that "American intelligence agencies have told the White House they now have 'high confidence' that the Russian government was behind the theft of emails and documents from the Democratic National Committee," yet you recently stated that you "don't think we're quite ready yet to make a call on attribution." The fragmented, selective, and possibly inaccurate nature of these reports risks leaving Americans in the dark about a threat to our political process.

The American people deserve to know the truth before they cast their votes. Making public the official U.S. government understanding of this incident – to the maximum extent possible while

protecting sensitive sources and methods – will ensure that public debate is grounded in reality, not speculation and political spin.

Specific topics to address include:

1. Does the IC believe Russia or any other state actor to be involved with this incident? If so, to what extent, and with what degree of confidence?

2. What is your assessment of the likelihood and potential impact of future attempts by state actors to interfere with U.S. elections?

3. What is the protocol for public disclosure of information related to foreign interference with U.S. elections?

This incident has raised important questions about the existence and extent of foreign influence in American elections this year and beyond. We understand that some information will have to remain classified, but an attack of this nature demands an extraordinary degree of transparency. A presentation of the facts by the nation's senior intelligence official will serve to inform our political debate and bolster public faith in the integrity of our electoral process.

Sincerely,

Brad R. Wenstrup
Member of Congress

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Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
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