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Congress of the United States
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May 11, 2017

The Honorable Rod J. Rosenstein
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein,

I write to request that you immediately appoint an independent Special Counsel to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 election, including potential Russian ties to President Donald J. Trump's campaign. I believe that this step is essential to ensure that the American people can have full faith that the institutions and ideals intended to transcend administrations remain the rock upon which our democracy was founded.

While both the House and the Senate are investigating this matter, the Justice Department has the resources, staff and authority to determine if there has been any violation of federal law.

Given the recent and oddly-timed removal of FBI Director James Comey from his post, it is imperative that the Department move swiftly to restore confidence that this removal had nothing to do with the FBI's investigation into the President and his campaign.

The American people deserve to receive a full accounting of Russian activities in this area. It is my firm belief that only a full, fair, and impartial investigation headed by an independent Special Council with all the latitude available under the law can produce such a report at this point.

Recent months – and most acutely, the past two days – have given rise to questions whose answers could shake the foundation of our democracy. At such times, it is the duty of the President and his administration to take the necessary steps to ensure that partisanship and self-preservation do not corrupt our country.

Again, I respectfully request your immediate appointment of a special counsel to investigate this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress