

December 21, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room H-232  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 322  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Leader Schumer, and Leader Pelosi,

As Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election continues, it is critical that the investigation be allowed to conclude its work unimpeded. We the undersigned ask that you do everything in your power to support the integrity of the investigation, including supporting bipartisan legislation designed to protect it.

Following the indictment of General Michael Flynn, Donald Trump's former national security adviser, Trump lashed out at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), saying the agency's reputation for fairness is "in tatters" [1] and that its standing is the "worst in history." [2] This is not the first time Trump has attempted to undermine the credibility of the investigation, including calling it a "witch hunt," [3] or the recent affront of Trump's attorney Jay Sekulow calling for a "special counsel to investigate the special counsel." [4] The far-right media echo chamber has taken a cue and is also attacking the credibility of the investigation.

Robert Mueller is a Republican who was tapped to lead the FBI by President George W. Bush. And more critically, he's a widely respected investigator and prosecutor with the highest credentials. He received ongoing praise from Republicans on Capitol Hill, from Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein in a recent House Judiciary Committee hearing, and in the past even Trump's lawyers; however, as the investigation has gathered steam, the administration, along with several other partisan voices, has changed its tune.

Regardless of the troubling nature of Trump's statements and the attempts by his allies to undermine the special counsel, the investigation's work is an issue of national security. Failing to protect the investigation will make it almost impossible to fully determine the extent of Russian involvement in the 2016 election and will expose our nation to further attacks from adversaries in elections. The constitutional order of our country depends fundamentally on a system of checks and balances and the bedrock principle that no one is above the law, and to maintain constitutional order, the investigation must continue.

Legislation has already been introduced to protect the special counsel and the investigation. On August 3, 2017, Senators Lindsay Graham (R-SC) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) introduced bipartisan legislation (S.1735) that would require approval from a federal three-judge panel before a special counsel could be dismissed. On the same day, Senators Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Chris Coons (D-DE) introduced bipartisan legislation (S.1741) to allow a special counsel who was fired without cause to seek review and possible reinstatement from a panel of three federal judges.

The numerous senators and representatives who have expressed their opposition to the idea of Donald Trump firing Special Counsel Mueller must now speak out again to show their support for the special counsel, and they must take meaningful action. Congress must demonstrate strong bipartisan support of the independent investigation and underscore that no one is above the law.

Sincerely,

Pride at Work  
MoveOn.org  
Stand Up America  
Democracy 21  
Every Voice  
Third Way  
Progressive Change Campaign Committee  
Public Citizen  
March For Truth  
Free Speech For People  
Project On Government Oversight  
CREDO  
Revolving Door Project  
United for Democracy Now  
National Association of Social Workers  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
End Citizens United  
Common Defense  
National Black Justice Coalition  
Indivisible  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
Protect Democracy  
Daily Kos  
People For the American Way  
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund

Win Without War  
Center for Media and Democracy  
People Demanding Action  
Represent.Us  
Common Cause  
The Loyal Opposition  
Democracy Spring  
Church Women United in New York State  
Friends of the Earth US  
act.tv  
The Workmen's Circle  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)  
Reverb Press  
MAYDAY America  
Democracy for America  
Democracy Matters  
Small Planet Institute  
Mi Familia Vota  
American Federation of Teachers  
Center For American Progress Action Fund  
The Shalom Center  
American Bridge 21st Century  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Democracy Initiative  
The New Florida Majority  
Concerned Citizens For Change  
Americans Take Action  
MOVI, Money Out Voters In  
Clean Elections Texas  
Occupy Bergen County (New Jersey)  
WV Citizen Action Group  
Jemez Action Group (JAG)  
New Mexico Raging Grannies  
American Oversight  
350Hawaii.org  
Truman National Security Project  
Indivisible Chicago  
NAACP  
American Voices Abroad Berlin  
Demand Progress Action  
Greenpeace  
Coalition to Preserve, Protect & Defend  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Town Hall Project  
People Demanding Action  
Coffee Party Savannah  
Demos  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action

NEEDTOIMPEACH.COM  
OURNJ (Our United Revolution, NJ)  
Defending Democracy  
Common Cause Hawaii