

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

October 22, 2020

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray,

We write regarding press reports concerning materials allegedly describing activities by Hunter Biden, and found on a laptop at a Delaware repair shop. We are deeply concerned about the possibility that in response to these reports the Trump Administration will take actions before Election Day that would seek to damage the Democratic presidential candidate and undermine the rule of law.

Despite legitimate concerns about the origin and credibility of this information, President Trump and Republican Members of Congress have seized on the story and are pressuring law enforcement to publicly act to advance their partisan interests. President Trump himself stated that “[w]e’ve got to get the Attorney General to act and to act fast,” pushing for a public investigation of the former Vice President and his son just two weeks before the election.

The attempts by President Trump’s personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, and others to perpetuate narratives about the supposed Hunter Biden materials closely track a longstanding effort of Russia and its proxies to amplify false and misleading allegations and themes to denigrate former Vice President Biden and benefit President Trump’s reelection bid. As is widely known, Mr. Giuliani for years has partnered with Kremlin-linked individuals in an effort to manufacture dirt on the former Vice President.

In particular, one of Mr. Giuliani’s associates, Andrii Derkach, is a Russian agent who was recently sanctioned for spreading false claims about corruption to undermine former Vice President’s candidacy and the Democratic Party. According to the Treasury Department, “[f]rom at least late 2019 through mid-2020, Derkach waged a covert influence campaign centered on cultivating false and unsubstantiated narratives concerning U.S. officials in the upcoming 2020 Presidential Election, spurring corruption investigations in both Ukraine and the United States designed to culminate prior to election day.” Announcing a partisan investigation on the eve of the election would only serve to advance this agenda.

The FBI has a critical role to play in safeguarding our elections and, in partnership with the Intelligence Community, is responsible for exposing and combating both foreign cyber and influence efforts targeting our electoral process. In carrying out this critical national security mission, law enforcement’s handling of this matter must be above politics and beyond reproach. We therefore urge you to resist pressure from President Trump and other partisan actors to take any actions intended to benefit President Trump politically on the eve of the election. Succumbing to such pressure would deeply undermine our national security interests and the

credibility of law enforcement, and could have devastating consequences for the resiliency of our democracy.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator