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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

January 25, 2018

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write to request access to the information that you have asserted publicly has been received by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee regarding the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

On January 19, 2018, the Department of Justice (DOJ) provided documents to the Committee that included text messages between two FBI employees. These materials included a November 9, 2016, text message that stated, without explanatory context: “Are you even going to give out your calendars? Seems kind of depressing. Maybe it should just be the first meeting of the secret society.”¹ In keeping with the rules and practices of the Committee, I received a copy of these materials.

In recent days, you have alleged that the Committee’s investigation has uncovered “further evidence of corruption, more than bias, but corruption at the highest levels of the FBI and that secret society.”² On a major media outlet, you stated, “I have all kinds of people come in front of our committee giving us information and I had heard that there were off-site meetings.”³ You told a different major media outlet that an “informant”⁴ has told lawmakers that

¹ Letter from Stephen E. Boyd, Assistant Attorney General, to Chairman Ron Johnson, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Enclosure of Strozk-Page Texts (Jan. 19, 2018) (DOJ-PROD-0000320).

² Fox News, America’s Newsroom, *Interview of Senator Ron Johnson Interview by Bill Hemmer* (Jan. 24, 2018).

³ National Public Radio, Morning Edition, *Sen. Ron Johnson Weighs In On Missing FBI Text Messages* (Jan. 25, 2018).

⁴ Fox News, Special Report with Bret Baier, *Interview of Senator Ron Johnson by Bret Baier* (Jan. 23, 2018).

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there were a “group of a number of high-level FBI officials that were holding secret meetings off-site. There is so much smoke here.”⁵

As a former prosecutor I understand fully the power of allegations in the public domain. You have now made serious and damaging allegations. I would assume that you would never make those kinds of allegations without serious and substantial hard evidence.

Although you have now provided interviews to multiple major media outlets about the information purportedly received by the Committee, this information has not been provided to me or to the other Democratic members of the Committee. As you have acknowledged, the FBI is “the world’s premier investigative agency.”⁶ If the Committee has any evidence that the FBI is, as you have stated, biased and corrupt at the highest levels, I assume that evidence is strong in both quality and quantity, and extends far beyond a casual mention in a text message between two agents who were involved in personal crosstalk. And as Ranking Member of this Committee, I deserve access to this evidence.

You have said that you are “trying to be as transparent as possible.”⁷ I urge you to share all information and documents received by you as part of your investigation regarding any allegations regarding the FBI immediately.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

⁵ Fox News, America’s Newsroom, *Interview of Senator Ron Johnson Interview by Bill Hemmer* (Jan. 24, 2018).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ ABC News, *The Full ‘Secret Society’ Text between FBI Agents: Was it Meant in Jest?* (Jan. 24, 2018).