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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
INTERVIEW OF:
KAREN A. TRAMONTANO

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INTERVIEW OF KAREN A. TRAMONTANO
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MR. FOLIO: Good morning, everyone. This is a transcribed interview of Ms. Karen Tramontano conducted by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Finance. This interview was requested by Chairman Ron Johnson and Chairman Charles Grassley as part of the committees' investigation of whether there were any actual or apparent conflicts of interest or any other wrongdoing with regard to the Obama administration Ukraine policy or Burisma Holdings as well as related matters.

On December 3rd, 2019, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson sent a letter to Blue Star Strategies requesting information. Since then, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson have requested Ms. Tramontano's appearance for a voluntary transcribed interview.

In response through counsel and also through the company, they have provided us with records that are responsive not only to our voluntary request for information but also responsive to the subpoena.

Ms. Tramontano, can you please state your full name for the record.


MR. FOLIO: Good morning, Ms. Tramontano. My name again is Joseph Folio. I'm the chief counsel for the
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. I'm going to introduce the other members of Chairman Johnson's staff who are joining me in the hearing room today, and then I will ask the other staff to introduce themselves.

So from Chairman Johnson's staff joining me, Scott Wittman, Brian Downey, Sarah Smerling, and Will Sacripanti. I'll ask Chairman Grassley's staff to introduce themselves.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Good morning, Ms. Tramontano. My name is Josh Flynn-Brown. I'm deputy chief investigative counsel for Chairman Grassley, and today I'm joined by my colleague, Quinton Brady.

MR. FOLIO: I'll ask Senator Peters' staff to introduce themselves.

MR. SCHRAM: Good morning, Ms. Tramontano. Thank you for your time today. The Minority's participation is not an endorsement of the investigation. As the Ranking Members have said publicly, they believe this investigation advances a rush-in-disinformation campaign and is intended to interfere in our 2020 presidential election.

We are now 67 days away from the election. Just a few weeks ago on August 7th, the director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, William Evanina, issued an unclassified assessment of foreign election threats stating, quote, Russia is using a range of measures
to primarily denigrate former Vice President Biden. For example, pro-Russia Ukrainian Parliamentarian Andrii Derkach is spreading claims about corruption, including through publicizing leaked phone calls to undermine former Vice President Biden's candidacy and the Democratic Party. The chairman's investigation has provided the United States Senate and our committees as a platform to amplify the Russian attack on our election described by Mr. Evanina. Chairman Johnson has repeatedly admitted that the investigation is targeted at influencing voters and hurting Vice President Biden's presidential candidacy.

In March 2020, hours after Joe Biden became the top Democratic contender, Chairman Johnson stated, quote, And if I were a Democrat primary voter, I'd want these questions satisfactorily answered before I cast my final vote.

Earlier this month in describing the investigation, Chairman Johnson said, quote, I would think it would certainly help Donald Trump win reelection and certainly be pretty good, I would say, evidence about not voting for Vice President Biden.

I would also note we are conducting this interview remotely because we are in the midst of a pandemic that has created an extraordinary public health crisis in the United States. Since this investigation started, more than 180,000 Americans have died of COVID. The Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs Committee has jurisdiction over pandemic preparedness and response, and yet this committee has now spent considerably more time on the record in this investigation than it has devoted to all of its COVID hearings combined.

As Chairman Johnson told a radio host on August 12th, quote, Whether I am in D.C. or not, I'm working on this almost nonstop, okay? So is my staff.

Ranking Member Peters believes that this investigation is a misuse of committee resources that does not advance the health, safety, or economic security of Americans, consistent with our committee's mission. We have a right and responsibility to be here, and we will do our best to ensure that you are treated fairly, that the record is accurate and complete, and that the national security of the United States is protected.

I am joined by my colleague, Soumya Dayananda, Valerie Shen, and Roy Awabdeh.

MR. FOLIO: And for the record, I am going to first refer to the several times, both in transcripts and in other public statements and letters, that we have responded to the allegations from Senator Peters' staff.

I can also note that the handful of hours that we've spent in interviews in no way comes close to the number of hours that the rest of our staff and some of this staff has
actually spent focused on the COVID issue. I can't speak for Chairman Peters, but it's certainly more than a few hours of interviews with witnesses, especially when compared to the 25-plus people we have on staff.

Regardless, we've also noted that this investigation is based entirely, almost entirely on U.S. records, U.S. companies like Blue Star, and former and current government officials to the connections that happened, and any of the allegations of disinformation or advancing such claim are baseless and demonstrate so in multiple public filings.

Ranking Member Wyden's staff?

MR. BERICK: Thank you. I am David Berick. I am the chief investigator for the Democratic staff of the Senate Finance Committee. I am joined by Dan Goshorn, Josh Heath, and Michael Osborn-Grosso.

For the record, we associate ourselves with Mr. Schram's remarks concerning this investigation. This investigation has been made a Finance Committee investigation by Chairman Grassley, and the Committee Minority has a right to participate. As such, our participation is not an endorsement of the investigation.

We believe that the bases cited by Chairman Johnson and Chairman Grassley are unfounded and had been refuted by witnesses who testified before the House during the impeachment proceeding, before the Senate Intelligence
Committee, and now before these committees as well. We note that on August 18th, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence issued the fifth volume of its investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, which casts further doubt on the merits of this investigation and the credibility and the sources such as Andrii Telizchenko, an individual we will hear more about from today's witness.

Furthermore, Ranking Member Wyden has expressed particular concern in the record upon which this investigation is being conducted is complete. The Majority has--Minority has not received documents that's requested from the administration, especially documents related to Mr. Zlochevsky, the owner of Burisma, and Viktor Shokin from the Ukraine prosecutor general's office.

Furthermore, although the State Department is voluntarily cooperating with the majority, they have refused requests by Ranking Member Wyden to receive information.

We also note, as Mr. Schram noted, that the investigation, bringing the investigation, over 5.8 million of Americans contracted COVID-19. More than 177,000 have died. The Finance Committee has responsibility for Medicare and Medicaid programs, including oversight of nursing homes. The disease has disproportionately impacted those populations.
Finally, also, as Mr. Schram noted, the election is 67 days away, with many Americans attempting to vote by mail and through absentee and early voting well before then. We agree with the assessment that Chairman Johnson has made it clear in his statements to the media that he intends to report the findings of this and related investigations in an effort to discredit Vice President Biden and to influence that election.

MR. FOLIO: Ms. Tramontano, I will now explain how the interview will proceed.

The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not apply to any of the committee's investigative activities, including transcribed interviews.

The way questioning will proceed is that we will alternate between the Majority and Minority staff for one hour each. The Majority staff will begin for an hour, and then the Minority staff will have an opportunity to ask its questions for an hour. Then we will rotate back and forth until there are no more questions.

During the interview, we will do our best to limit the number of people who are directing questions at you during any given hour. That said, from time to time, a follow-up question or clarifying question may be helpful, and if that's the case, you may hear from other staff around the virtual table. And because we are all virtual, I will ask
everyone just to please speak slowly and allow opportunities
to be heard clearly, especially for Ms. Gray, the reporter.
Ms. Gray is going to create a verbatim record of what
we discuss today. With that in mind, Ms. Tramontano, it's
important that you respond to our questions verbally. The
reporter cannot properly record nonverbal responses or
gestures. Do you understand this?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I do.

MR. FOLIO: We encourage witnesses that appear before
the committee to freely consult with counsel. Do you have
counsel present with you today?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I do.

MR. FOLIO: And for the record, can counsel please
state their name.

MR. KADZIK: Yes. It's Peter Kadzik, K-a-d-z-i-k.

MR. FOLIO: Thank you, Peter.

Ms. Tramontano, we want you to answer our questions in
the most complete and truthful manner possible. So we're
going to take our time. If you have any questions or do not
understand what is being asked, just let us know. We'll be
happy to clarify or repeat. Do you understand?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I do.

MR. FOLIO: It's the committee's practice to honor
valid common law privilege claims as an accommodation to a
witness or party when those claims are made in good faith
and accompanied by sufficient explanation so that the committees can evaluate the claim. On deciding whether to honor a privilege, the committees weigh their need for the information against any legitimate basis for withholding it.

This interview is occurring without prejudice to any future discussions with the committees, and we reserve the right to request your participation in future interviews where we compel testimony.

Ms. Tramontano, if you need to take a break, please let us know. We will ordinarily take a break at the end of each hour, but if you need to take a break before then, just let us know. All right?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. Thank you.

MR. FOLIO: Ms. Tramontano, you are required to answer questions before Congress truthfully. Do you understand that?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I do.

MR. FOLIO: And this also applies to questions posed by congressional staff in an interview. Specifically, 18 USC Section 1001 makes it a crime to make any materially false or fictitious or fraudulent statement or representation in the course of a congressional interview. So this statute applies to your statements in this interview. Do you understand that?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I do.
MR. FOLIO: Ms. Tramontano, is there any reason you are unable to provide truthful answers to today's questions?

MS. TRAMONTANO: There is no reason.

MR. FOLIO: And finally, we'll ask that you not speak about what we discuss in this interview with anyone else outside of who's here in the virtual room today in order to preserve the integrity of our investigation. We also ask that you not remove any exhibits or committee documents from the interview as we previously discussed with your counsel. Do you understand and agree?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I do, and I agree.

MR. FOLIO: Ms. Tramontano, any questions before we begin the Majority's--

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, I have no questions.

MR. FOLIO: Ms. Tramontano, what is your position at Blue Star Strategies?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm the CEO.

MR. FOLIO: And for how long have you been the CEO at Blue Star Strategies?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Since the firm's inception, which would have been, I think, November 2009.

MR. FOLIO: And what are your roles and responsibilities as CEO?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, with--so I'm the co-founder so--with Sally Painter. So we, you know, run the firm, solicit
1 business, perform day-to-day services for our clients,
2 manage staff--
3  MR. FOLIO: How would you describe--
4  MS. TRAMONTANO: --and the accounts.
5  MR. FOLIO: How would you describe the--
6  MS. TRAMONTANO: Could you say that again?
7  MR. FOLIO: --firm, Blue Star Strategies? What kind of
8  firm is Blue Star Strategies?
9  MS. TRAMONTANO: We're a government and--government
10 affairs and public affairs firm.
11  MR. FOLIO: How many employees do you have?
12  MS. TRAMONTANO: Currently--I have to count. Let's
13 see. So not counting myself and Sally Painter because we're
14 not employees of the firm--we own it. So it's five--six.
15 We've lost a couple of people during COVID. So I think,
16 yeah, six, I think.
17  MR. FOLIO: And since your firm opened in 2009, is
18 around six employees about the usual size of the firm?
19  MS. TRAMONTANO: No. We've had--we've had more. I
20 think we've had eight. Maybe the highest was probably eight
21 employees.
22  MR. FOLIO: What is Sally Painter--
23  MS. TRAMONTANO: We're down to--
24  MR. FOLIO: Sorry. I'm not following my own advice and
25 letting you complete.
MS. TRAMONTANO: No, no. I said we're down two employees right now, and one of our employees is going on to get an advanced degree. So we're a little low in our staff level right now.

MR. FOLIO: What is Sally Painter's position at Blue Star Strategies?

MS. TRAMONTANO: She's the COO.

MR. FOLIO: And how long has she been in that position?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We founded the firm together, so same amount of time.

MR. FOLIO: And what are Ms. Painter's roles and responsibilities at the firm?

MS. TRAMONTANO: She has more of the human resources roles than I do. She's more responsible for the day-to-day management of the staff overall, but otherwise, we, you know, have similar functions with regard to, you know, clients and business development. I probably have more of the financial responsibilities of the firm, overseeing our temporary CFO, but other ways, our functions are pretty, pretty similar, I would say.

MR. FOLIO: When did Burisma Holdings become a client of Blue Star Strategies?

MS. TRAMONTANO: In November of 2015.

MR. FOLIO: What did you know about Burisma before you considered taking them as a client in November of 2015?
MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, we knew that they were one of the larger providers of energy for Ukraine. We knew the--you know, the sort of just generally what some of the concern--the concerns that they had about allegations that were being made about the company.

We had researched some of the, you know, the board members. I don't know what--you know, I can't recall now what else we did, but we did basic research about the company and had several conversations with their representative.

MR. FOLIO: What were the concerns that they had about allegations against the company?

MS. TRAMONTANO: They were concerned about the allegations that Ambassador Pyatt had made about the company, and they were concerned about the mischaracterization of the decision by a UK court that Ambassador Pyatt had made.

MR. FOLIO: And when did Ambassador Pyatt make those allegations?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm not 100 percent certain of the time frame. It was in 2015, maybe, you know, August or September. I'm not--although I'm not 100 percent sure.

MR. FOLIO: And what were the specific allegations that concerned the company?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Could--your last--your words were a
little muffled, Mr. Folio. Could you just say what you said again?

MR. FOLIO: Of course. What were the specific concerns that the company—or I'm sorry—the specific allegations that concerned the company?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, they were concerned that Ambassador Pyatt had singled the company out as a corrupt company and that Ambassador Pyatt had either stated or alleged that the decision in the UK court was not valid.

MR. FOLIO: And what was the UK court decision about?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, to the best of my recollection, I can tell you generally. There was an allegation that money had been—money that had been received through licenses, energy licenses, had been—had been laundered. That's generally what the allegations in the court case were.

MR. FOLIO: Were those allegations against the company?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I believe they were against the company's shareholder.

MR. FOLIO: And who is that?

MS. TRAMONTANO: His name is Mykola Zlochevsky.

MR. FOLIO: So they were not against the company. They were against Mr. Zlochevsky?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I'm not 100 percent sure. It may have, you know, implied—or imputed the same, you
know, allegations of corruption with regard to the company as well.

MR. FOLIO: You also said that prior to taking Blue Star as a client in November 2015, you researched its board members. What research did you conduct about the board members?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, the former president of Poland, Mr. Kwasniewski, is, you know, someone we knew because of our NATO work, and so we--you know, we just did some general research to see, you know, who the chairperson was and the fact that Kwasniewski was on the board and, you know, learned at that time that Mr. Biden and Mr. Archer were on the board.

MR. FOLIO: And when you say you learned at that time, when was that time?

MS. TRAMONTANO: My recollection is that it was the fall of 2015.

MR. FOLIO: So when you learned this, were you in the process of considering entering into a representation for Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, the company had been introduced to us, and we had done some research about the company.

MR. FOLIO: Who introduced the company to you?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Devon Archer.

MR. FOLIO: And who is Devon Archer?
MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, Devon Archer at the time was a member of the board. I didn't know Devon before that.

MR. FOLIO: And how did Mr. Archer identify your firm as a possible firm to represent Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Devon Archer was introduced to us by Eric Schwerin.

MR. FOLIO: And who is Eric Schwerin?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Eric Schwerin is someone I knew from my days in the Clinton White House.

MR. FOLIO: And at the time that Mr. Schwerin introduced you to Mr. Archer, where did Mr. Schwerin work?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't know at the time where Eric worked.

MR. FOLIO: Do you know generally around that time what Eric was doing?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, I don't know specifically what he was doing.

MR. FOLIO: Is he an attorney?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not to my knowledge.

MR. FOLIO: So what was the context in which Eric introduced you to Mr. Archer? Was it a professional relationship that you had with Eric that led to this?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, Eric had introduced Devon to us because Devon had questions about a bank that he was--I don't know, he was about to do business with, and Eric asked
if we knew the bank.

MR. FOLIO: And what bank was that?

MS. TRAMONTANO: The bank is called Norvik Bank.

MR. FOLIO: And Mr. Archer's interest in Norvik Bank, was that related to his position on the board of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It was not.

MR. FOLIO: To what was it related?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It wasn't related to anything in particular. Eric just introduced us to Devon, and Devon had a question about whether we knew Norvik Bank.

MR. FOLIO: And when did Mr. Schwerin introduce you to Mr. Archer?

MS. TRAMONTANO: As I said, the best of my recollection was it was the fall of 2015. It could have been the late summer of 2015. That's the best of my recollection.

MR. FOLIO: So you said the first--the basis for the introduction was Mr. Archer's an about Norvik Bank, but when did--

MS. TRAMONTANO: That's correct.

MR. FOLIO: --Mr. Archer raise Burisma with you?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It was after the conversation about Norvik Bank, sometime after that.

MR. FOLIO: So it was a separate conversation?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It was a separate conversation, yes.

MR. FOLIO: Okay. And can you please describe for us
the conversation you had with Mr. Archer when he first raised Burisma to you?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I really--I don't recall the specifics of the conversation. I mean, it was several years ago. So I don't really recall the specifics.

MR. FOLIO: Why did he want to talk to you about Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I think, you know, he--he thought we could be helpful to Burisma and, you know, talk to them about the concerns that they had.

MR. FOLIO: So when he spoke with you, did he raise the company's concerns, the basis for you possibly representing them?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall that specifically. I think it was a much more general conversation.

MR. FOLIO: What types of services did Mr. Archer think that you could possibly offer Burisma?

MR. KADZIK: If you know, if you can speculate as to what he was concerned with.

MR. FOLIO: I'm sorry. Do not speculate. Just in the course of your conversation, I'm assuming Mr. Archer came to you and had a reason why or thoughts why your firm would be interested in representing Burisma. And so the question is: What did Mr. Archer tell you that he thought your firm could provide to Burisma?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall the specifics of the conversation, like what he said and what we said. You know, we had conversations. In the course of those conversations, we talked to Devon about the work that we had done in a number of countries, and we probably--you know, I don't want to speculate, so I can't say what it was that he thought that we could do. Just I don't have a specific recollection of that conversation other than he came to know our work and wanted to introduce us to Burisma.

MR. FOLIO: I thought in one of your prior answers, but please correct me if I'm wrong, you said that you thought that you could talk to the company about their concerns. Were those the same concerns that we discussed before, the company's concerns about allegations that had been raised against it?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I mean, we're--I'm struggling here as I do not have a specific recollection of the words that, you know, were--the specific words that, you know, Devon said in a conversation with regard to Burisma. I learned of the company's specific concerns with regard to statements Ambassador Pyatt had made through the company's representative, not through Devon.

MR. FOLIO: Okay.

MS. TRAMONTANO: So to the extent my statement was somewhat muddled, I--you know, I didn't learn of those
concerns from Devon, to the best of my recollection.

MR. FOLIO: And who is the company representative from whom you learned about those concerns?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Vadym Pozharskiy.

MR. FOLIO: When you met Mr. Archer, when did you learn that he served on the board of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't believe it was in the first--you know, when Devon came--and I'm not even sure that this was a meeting. It may have been a phone call. I don't have a present recollection as to whether it was a meeting or a phone call. You know, his--the first conversation or conversations we had with Devon were about Norvik Bank. I don't believe in those conversations we talked about Burisma or he said he was on the board of Burisma. My recollection is that was a subsequent conversation.

MR. FOLIO: Was that the subsequent conversation then about Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, my recollection is that it was a subsequent conversation about Burisma.

MR. FOLIO: So Mr. Archer, was he speaking with you about Burisma in his capacity as a board member of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no way of knowing in what capacity he was talking--he was talking to me. I mean, you know, it was a conversation.

MR. FOLIO: But during that conversation, he made known
to you or you were otherwise aware that he was a board
member of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes.

MR. FOLIO: During that conversation did he mention Hunter Biden?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He did not.

MR. FOLIO: When he raised Burisma with you at that time, did you know whether Hunter Biden also served on the board of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't believe I did.

MR. FOLIO: When did you first learn that Hunter Biden served on the board of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I honestly do not recall. I don't know if it was in, you know, another conversation or, you know, when we did our own research it came up. But I honestly don't recall.

MR. FOLIO: So I just want to put a pin in it for one second, and I'd just like to ask some questions about your knowledge of Burisma prior to this introduction to Mr. Archer. So before Mr. Archer raised with you the possibility of you representing Burisma, did you know about Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. FOLIO: You said they were a major gas company in Ukraine, but you didn't know anything about them?
MS. TRAMONTANO: No, not to the best of my, you know, recollection. I didn't know anything about them.

MR. FOLIO: But--

MS. TRAMONTANO: We hadn't worked in Ukraine for a while.

MR. FOLIO: And approximately how long had you not worked in Ukraine by this point in the fall of 2015?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not work in Ukraine for the years that Yanukovych was in power. We had worked in Ukraine when Viktor Yushchenko was President, and we did not--we did not do work in Ukraine when Yanukovych was in power.

MR. FOLIO: So when Mr. Archer approached you about possibly representing Burisma, did you discuss it with your colleagues at Blue Star?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I discussed it with Sally, yeah. And, actually, I should say Sally and I discussed it, and it may have been a phone call that Sally and I had with Archer. I don't have a present recollection of that, whether it was, you know, a joint call with Archer, but I--so I just--I don't recall. But certainly Sally and I would have discussed it.

MR. FOLIO: When the idea of representing Burisma came up, when you raised it with Sally and anyone else at your firm, did Ms. Painter express any prior knowledge of
Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not that I recall.

MR. FOLIO: Do you know if anyone else at Blue Star had any prior knowledge of Burisma at this point in time?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, not that I recall.

MR. FOLIO: So when Mr. Archer first raised the idea of Blue Star possibly representing Burisma, how did you respond?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't--I don't really recall. I don't--what I recall is that we had a conversation, subsequent conversation with Vadym and Archer and myself and Sally. And that's--you know, that's what I recall.

MR. FOLIO: Just so I understand, the initial conversation you had with Mr. Archer about Burisma, after that you recall a conversation that involved yourself, Ms. Painter, Vadym, and the company, and Mr. Archer. Is that correct?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, that's correct.

MR. FOLIO: So when you first spoke with Mr. Archer, was anyone else present at that conversation other than you and Mr. Archer--I'm sorry. When you first spoke with Mr. Archer about Burisma, was anyone else present at that conversation other than you and Mr. Archer?

MS. TRAMONTANO: As I just said, I believe Sally
Painter was present or was part of that conversation.

MR. FOLIO: She was part of that first conversation when Mr. Archer raised Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I believe she was, yes.

MR. FOLIO: Okay. And did Mr. Archer include Vadym from the company in that first conversation about Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No--well, let me--I'm getting confused right now, so let me just try to be clear. To the best of my recollection, there was conversation with Devon Archer about Norvik Bank. You know, there may have been a couple of conversations about Norvik Bank. I don't recall. But there was at least one conversation about Norvik Bank.

Subsequent to those conversations, Devon Archer had a conversation with me and Sally about Burisma. I don't remember the specifics of that conversation. You know, generally it was, you know, he thought, you know, we could help Burisma in some way. I don't remember any specifics being discussed at the time.

Subsequent to that conversation, there was a conversation with Sally, Devon Archer, Vadym Pozharskiy, and myself.

MR. FOLIO: Okay.

MS. TRAMONTANO: I mean, to the best of my recollection, that's--

MR. FOLIO: No, that was a helpful clarification. Were
there any other meetings that you had with Mr. Archer after
that but before you signed the November 2015 agreement to
represent Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We had several conversations with
Vadym before we entered into an engagement. I do not recall
whether Mr. Archer was in those calls or not. He may have
been. I just simply do not recall at this time. But I do
know we had more than--or at least my memory is we had more
than one conversation with the representative of Burisma.

MR. FOLIO: So focusing on this time period between Mr.
Archer first raising Burisma and November 2015 when Blue
Star officially signs the agreement to represent Burisma,
did you have conversations with any other board members, to
include Hunter Biden, about the firm potentially
representing Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. FOLIO: Did you have any conversations with Eric
Schwerin about the decision to represent Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not that I recall.

MR. FOLIO: Did Blue Star perform any due diligence
before deciding to represent Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, we did our standard, you
know, background research, you know, of public sources of
information.

MR. FOLIO: And, again, focusing on the time period
when you were deciding whether or not the company would represent Burisma, did you speak with any current U.S. officials about the company before deciding to represent it?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't--I don't remember. I don't remember if we had. I mean, on some occasions we have done that with clients, but I do not remember. I do not recall talking to any current officials at the time.

MR. FOLIO: Did you speak with any former U.S. officials as you were contemplating representing Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. I don't recall whether we had. We could have. I mean, we knew all the former U.S. ambassadors, so we certainly could have, but I do not recall specifically.

MR. FOLIO: During the due diligence process, did you all have any concerns about the company's involvement in corruption, when deciding to make a representation?

MS. TRAMONTANO: What I recall about our research at the time is there was a lot of information out there, some good, some--you know, some questions, some challenges raised. You know, there was just, you know, a lot of information. And, you know, we looked through, you know, all of the information at the time that it was available, again, from public sources.

MR. FOLIO: When you were deciding to represent--whether or not Blue Star would represent Burisma, did you
meet with Mr. Mykola Zlochevsky?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. FOLIO: Did you meet with any other, or any Burisma official other than Mr. Archer or Vadym, when you deciding whether or not Blue Star would represent Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We met with no other individuals.

MR. FOLIO: Now just expanding the time frame, not focusing on this decision period, I'd just like to understand more generally. Did you ever speak with Vice President Biden about Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I never spoke with Vice President Biden about Burisma.

MR. FOLIO: Did you ever speak with anyone on Vice President Biden's staff about Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not speak with anyone at Vice President Biden's staff about Burisma.

MR. FOLIO: Did you ever visit Vice President Biden's residence at the Naval Observatory?

MS. TRAMONTANO: On one occasion I did. It was a holiday party.

MR. FOLIO: And when was that?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall.

MR. FOLIO: At the holiday party at the Vice President's residence, did you discuss Burisma with anyone?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.
MR. FOLIO: Mr. Zlochevsky?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. FOLIO: What were Devon Archer's responsibilities on Burisma's board?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know.

MR. FOLIO: How much was Mr. Archer compensated for his service as a board member?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not know.

MR. FOLIO: What were Hunter Biden's responsibilities on Burisma's board?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not know.

MR. FOLIO: Do you know Hunter Biden?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do.

MR. FOLIO: Have you met him?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have met him on a couple of occasions, yes.

MR. FOLIO: When did you first meet him?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't remember when I first met him. I recall Hunter had hosted a book signing party for a former business partner of mine, and I attended the book party. That was probably a decade ago, and that may have been the first time.

MR. FOLIO: How would you describe your relationship with Hunter Biden prior to Blue Star's decision to represent Burisma?
MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I guess an acquaintance.

MR. FOLIO: Approximately how many times have you met or spoken with Hunter Biden before Blue Star decided to represent Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: So there was this occasion of the book party. I believe I saw him at an NDI reception, a luncheon.

MR. FOLIO: And when was that?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't recall. I believe it was before 2015, but I can't be certain. And I don't think it was—I don't recall any other occasion before 2015.

MR. FOLIO: Before Blue Star agreed to represent Burisma, did you ever discuss Hunter Biden's role on Burisma's board with anyone?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, I did not.

MR. FOLIO: Was it a topic of discussion internally within Blue Star as you were deciding whether or not to represent Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, not that I recall.

MR. FOLIO: How much was Hunter Biden compensated to serve on the board of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not have any idea.

MR. FOLIO: At this point in time, Ms. Tramontano, I'm going to turn the questions over to Josh Flynn-Brown from Chairman Grassley's office.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Hi, Ms. Tramontano. Can you hear me
okay?
MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I can.
MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Great. Thank you for your time today. So would you agree that the U.S. Government viewed Burisma as a corrupt company?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not know what the U.S. Government view of Burisma was.
MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Would you agree that Burisma has a reputation for engaging in corrupt activity?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I would not agree with that statement.
MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Are you aware of whether or not the U.S. Government viewed Zlochevsky as a corrupt person?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not know what the U.S. Government's view is.
MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Do you agree that he has a reputation for engaging in corrupt activity?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I can't comment on what somebody's view of somebody else is.
MR. FLYNN-BROWN: The question is, would you agree, what is your opinion that he did have a reputation for engaging in corrupt activity?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I think he has a reputation, by some people, of being corrupt and other people of not being corrupt, so, you know, I really can't comment on that.
MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Have you ever met Mr. Zlochevsky?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I have met him, yes.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: When did you meet him?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Could you say that again? I didn't quite hear you.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: And when did you meet him?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I think, let's see, I first met him in 2016, maybe February. I'm not sure exactly the date, but--

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Was that the only time that you met him in person?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I met him on two other occasions at the conference in Monaco.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: And when was that?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It would have been twenty--maybe '18 and '19?

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So when you met him on those three occasions, was that--were those meetings a part of your representation of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. I wouldn't say so. He doesn't speak English, and I speak neither Russian nor Ukrainian, so I would not describe that as part of the representation.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So what did you discuss then at these meetings, if anything?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, the two meetings in Monaco always take place on my birthday, and he said "happy birthday." That was about it. And the other meeting that
we had, which was to introduce John Buretta to him.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So the meeting in February 2016 was to introduce John Buretta?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, to the best of my recollection that was the time frame. I mean, it may have been January. I'm not 100 percent sure, but it was around that time period.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Do you recall who else was in that meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Vadym was in that meeting, Pozharskiy, and I don't recall if anybody else was in that meeting.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: At no point in those meetings did the name Hunter Biden come up. Is that correct?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. Hunter Biden's name did not come up in any of those meetings.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: I had a bad audio feed there. Can you restate your answer for me?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. I'm sorry. I said Hunter Biden's name did not come up in any of those meetings.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Are you aware of whether or not Zlochevsky bribed government officials?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no knowledge of that.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Are you aware of reporting that while Zlochevsky was ecology minister, he issued licenses to oil and gas companies--
MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm sorry. Your audio went out.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: I'll restate the question in full.

Are you aware of reporting that while Zlochevsky was ecology minister, he issued licenses to oil and gas companies that belonged to him?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I am aware of that reporting.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: And you were aware of that reporting prior to your representation of Burisma or after?

MS. TRAMONTANO: After.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So while you were representing them you became aware of that reporting.

MS. TRAMONTANO: To the best of my knowledge, yes.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So regarding Zlochevsky, were you aware of any of his other companies other than Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. I was not aware of his other companies.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Will, can we pull Tab 47? I believe this would be Exhibit 1.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 1 was marked for identification.]

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Ms. Tramontano, we're going to put it up on the screen. This is the consulting agreement between Blue Star and Burisma. I am only going to ask you questions relating to the services, but if you would like to review the document in full please take your time and let me know
when you're ready.

[Pause.]

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So on page 1 of your consulting services agreement it provides the services as follows: "Provide government relations assistance to the client in the U.S. and Ukraine." Did you provide government relations assistance in the United States?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: And what kind of government relations assistance did you provide?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Our initial remit was to find out why Ambassador Pyatt said--made the statements that he made in 2015, and those included his allegations about Burisma and his statements about the Ukraine court decision. And we were asked if we could find out whether the State Department's position, stated in another way, whether Ambassador Pyatt's position reflected the Department of State's position.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: What exactly was Ambassador Pyatt's position at the time?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, as I understand it, Ambassador Pyatt called out Burisma as a corrupt company.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Did Ambassador Pyatt give you details as to why he concluded that Burisma was a corrupt company?
MS. TRAMONTANO: He did not.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Did you ever ask him?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: What did he say?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He didn't want to talk about it.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So is it accurate then that you did have awareness with respect to Burisma's reputation for corruption?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I had awareness that there were reports about Burisma.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: And those reports related to corruption. Is that correct?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Those reports covered a range of allegations and a range of stories. So--

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Which included corruption. Is that correct?

MS. TRAMONTANO: There were stories that alleged corruption, yes.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: What was the intended outcome of your government relations assistance? In other words, what were you hoping to achieve for Burisma in the United States?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We were trying to understand the factual basis for Ambassador Pyatt's statements. We were trying to understand whether Ambassador Pyatt's position of the
company, about the company.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Were you able to get an answer on that? In other words, were you able to determine whether or not the State Department's position with respect to Burisma was the same as Ambassador Pyatt's?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We were not.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Other than Ambassador Pyatt, did you meet with any U.S. Government officials on behalf of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, we did.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: And who did you meet with?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We met with Amos Hochstein, I believe in December 2015, and we met with Cathy Novelli in March, I believe, of 2016. Do you want me to go through the meetings for the last five years, or is there a particular meeting that you want to ask me about?

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: I think we can get into that later regarding that. Are the extent of the names?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. I mean, we provided the Committee with information about all of our meetings from 2015 to, you know, 2019.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: During the course of those meetings, or the run-up to those meetings, did you provide to those government officials any written materials, documents, white papers, or other informational materials to any of those
officials?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Just for clarity, are you talking about the meetings from 2015 to 2019? Because in some--

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Let me clarify. Yes.

MS. TRAMONTANO: --cases, we have.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Yes. Fair question. Let me clarify.

So during the course of your representation of Burisma, when you met with U.S. Government officials, did you provide them any written materials, documents, white papers, or other informational materials regarding Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We may have, and if we did we submitted it to the Committee. But short of, you know, going through the documents we submitted to the Committee I wouldn't have a recollection of that. But if we had submitted something it would have been submitted to the Committee if we had it.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Did you provide government relations assistance within Ukraine for Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm sorry. Could you just repeat that? It just got muddled at the end.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Sure. I'll restate the question in full. Did you provide government relations assistance for Burisma within Ukraine?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We had meetings with government officials at the Office of the General Prosecutor in
Ukraine, yes.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Are you able to provide a list of the names of the Ukrainian officials that you met with?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We provided the names that we had to the Committee already.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: I want to move to the next element of your consulting services agreement. It's the Services section, and I'll state it here. I'll quote it here for you. "Communicate to officials about the client's business and its economic importance to Ukraine." Do you see that part?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It's not on the screen yet, but I'm sure it will be.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: It should be up on the screen. It should be the second bullet.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I see it now. It just came up on the screen.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Great. So can you describe Burisma's economic importance to Ukraine?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure. As one of the largest privately held energy companies, Burisma's importance is directly related to Ukraine's energy self-sufficiency.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: What kind of relationship did the Ukrainian government have with the natural gas sector?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You'd have to ask the Ukrainian
government about that.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Well, was the Ukrainian government
supported by corruption and the natural gas and energy
sector within Ukraine?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I can't answer that question. I have
no knowledge to answer that question.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Were you aware of whether or not the
Ukrainian government sought a role in the natural gas trade?

MS. TRAMONTANO: The Ukrainian--in Ukraine, there is a
state-owned energy company, Naftogaz, and it provides energy
to noncommercial, otherwise residential--it provides
residential energy. That's what I understand.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: What kind of relationship did Burisma
have with the Ukrainian government?

MS. TRAMONTANO: With some ministries, it had a very
good relationship.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: And which ministries were those?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It had--with the finance ministry, it
was a lot of back-and-forth about different taxing schemes
and, you know, how best to manage, you know, the commercial
energy sector, and I know Burisma--well, I know Vadym as a
representative of Burisma had many productive conversations
with the finance ministry, with that regard.

I don't know if its relationship with other ministries--
-the energy ministry, I--at least my understanding was that
they—that the company had a productive relationship with the energy ministry.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So did Burisma's economic importance for success benefit the Ukrainian government?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no idea whether it benefitted the Ukrainian government. I know that energy self-sufficiency—so is a key issue for Ukraine. So being free of Russian dependence on energy is a key issue for Ukraine.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So did the Ukrainian government have a strong interest in the United States making a favorable position regarding Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have—I have no knowledge of that. Cannot answer that question.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: To your knowledge, did the Ukrainian government or any Ukrainian political party express concerns about Burisma's representation in the United States?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not to my knowledge.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Do you know whether Burisma served as a vehicle to enrich Ukrainian government officials?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not to my knowledge.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Would it surprise you if it did?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I am not going to—I have no comment on that question.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: You just don't have the basis of knowledge for it, or you just don't want to answer it?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't have any basis for knowledge of--to answer that question.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Do you know whether Burisma served as a vehicle to enrich Ukrainian political parties?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no knowledge to answer that question.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Are you aware of whether or not Burisma or Zlochevsky took directions from the Ukrainian government?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no knowledge of that.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Are you aware of whether or not Burisma or Zlochevsky--excuse me--took directions from any Ukrainian government officials?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no knowledge of that.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Are you aware of whether or not Burisma or Zlochevsky took directions from any political parties?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no knowledge of that.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Would it surprise you if Burisma or Zlochevsky took directions from any government official or any political party?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no knowledge to answer that.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: As part of your work for Burisma, did you work to foster ties between Ukraine and the United States?
MS. TRAMONTANO: No. That wasn't—that wasn't our scope of work.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Well, when meeting with U.S. government officials, did you intend to influence U.S. policy towards Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: You did not intend to influence U.S. policy towards Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Did you ever employ former Ukrainian government officials for your work with Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It depends on—if you're talking specifically about Andrii Telizchenko as a former official, well, he was not in our employ. He was a contractor. That's what your—if that's what the question is directed to.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: I'm not specifically asking about any individual.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Then the answer is no.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: I'd like to now go to the next element in the services section within your consulting services agreement, just a few more questions here, and we'll wrap up this round.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: The third element here is prepare
brief written reports as requested by the client.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Now, the previous prong, just to make clear, was communicate to officials about the client's business and its economic importance to Ukraine, and you did so, correct? You did that type of work?

MS. TRAMONTANO: There were meetings that communicated the economic importance to Ukraine of Burisma, yes.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Okay. Now let's move to that third prong. So prepare brief written reports as requested by the client. Did you in fact do so?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Whatever written reports that we would have provided were subject to the committee, but our general practice with the client was oral reports.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So did you create a lobbying plan for your Burisma work?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We didn't lobby the U.S. government.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So, you know, going back to one of your questions, if Blue Star was not trying to influence U.S. policy and State Department officials, then what were the purpose--what was the purpose of those meetings?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I'll state what I have stated previously. The client wanted to know why Ambassador Pyatt made the statements that he made with regard to Burisma and with regard to the UK court decision, and the client wanted
to know whether Ambassador Pyatt's position reflected the U.S. State Department's position about the company.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: I just want to be clear about your testimony here today, and your testimony is that Blue Star did not ever try to influence U.S. policy with respect to Ukraine?

MS. TRAMONTANO: In our representation of Burisma, we did not try to influence U.S. policy with respect to Ukraine.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Did you engage in any public relations activity for Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So you never wrote any op-ed or--

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'll take--I'm sorry. Just for clarification, public relations just because people have different views of public relations, it is just I want to make sure that we're talking about the same thing. And you were going on to ask specific questions about op-eds?

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Yes. I'm happy to provide you with clarity on that with respect to op-eds and contact with the media. Did you have--did you write any op-eds or have any contact with the media with respect to Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: Regarding your representation of the national interest of Ukraine, what kind of work did you do
for them?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did--for--we did pro bono work, which consisted of delivering letters to Members of Congress, bipartisan Members of Congress, who had oversight or interest in the area of concern for the national interest of Ukraine Group.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So was that entity in any way, shape, or form supported by the Ukrainian government or Ukrainian political party or a Ukrainian government official?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not to my knowledge.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: And this was, you said, a nonprofit?

MS. TRAMONTANO: That was my--my understanding is, yes, that it was--it was an NGO.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: And where was it registered?

MS. TRAMONTANO: In Ukraine. It was a Ukrainian NGO.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So other than your contacts with Congress, did you engage in any public relations activity for that entity, including but not limited to op-eds or contact with the media?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, we did not.

MR. FLYNN-BROWN: So, at this point, I have finished my line of questioning for right now. I'm going to pass it back to Joe. Thank you. Ms. Tramontano.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Thank you.

MR. FOLIO: Ms. Tramontano, we've completed our
Majority questioning. So I'll turn it over to Zack Schram but ask if you would like to take a brief break before we do that.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah. Actually, if I could have, like, a two-minute break, that would be great.

MR. FOLIO: That sounds good. Should we reconvene in three minutes?

MR. SCHRAM: Can we just say it's 11:33--it's 11:33 now. Just to keep round numbers, can we say 11:40?

MR. FOLIO: Yes.

MR. SCHRAM: Thank you.

MR. FOLIO: Thank you.

[Recess.]

MR. SCHRAM: Ms. Tramontano, can you please just tell us a little bit about your career background prior to starting Blue Star Strategies?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure. Well, let's see. Immediately before Blue Star Strategies, I was a consultant to the Downey McGrath firm and also worked for the ILO Secretary General. Immediately before that, I ran President Clinton's transition up to New York and helped to start the foundation and his other philanthropic work. Before that I was Deputy Chief of Staff to President Clinton. Before that I was chief of staff to John Sweeney when he was president of the Service Employees International Union. Before that I was...
chief of staff to the mayor of the District of Columbia.

And before that I was a practicing trial attorney in the area of labor and civil and human rights.

MR. SCHRAM: Can you speak more about your responsibilities as Deputy Chief of Staff in the Clinton White House?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure. As Deputy Chief of Staff, you know, I had the role of the nexus between policy and politics and implementation—-I mean politics with a small "p"--and my portfolio included all the economic agencies, including Energy, Treasury, Labor, Commerce, and I sat on the National Economic Council as well, and USTR.

MR. SCHRAM: What are some accomplishments from your time in the Clinton White House that you're proud of?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, one of the accomplishments was we actually got an ILO treaty to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

MR. SCHRAM: Can you just clarify what ILO stands for?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Oh, sure. The ILO stands for--it's a tripartite international organization. It's one of the oldest international organizations in the UN system, and it has government labor organizations and employer organizations as its members. And the U.S. has not signed many of the treaties, and in the Clinton administration we worked hard to get a treaty signed and endorsed by--
bipartisan endorsement, bicameral, and it eliminates the
worst forms— commitment to eliminate the worst forms of
child labor.

We did a lot of work in NATO expansion, which was then
followed at the Bush administration, and, you know, we had a
lot of economic successes as well.

MR. SCHRAM: And what is GFI?

MS. TRAMONTANO: GFI is the Global Fairness Initiative.

It's a nonprofit that I founded. President Clinton was our
first chair, and it focuses on eliminating poverty through
policy changes and multi-stakeholder engagement.

MR. SCHRAM: I'd like to turn to the majority's purpose
for your interview today. Ms. Tramontano, in the Chairmen's
December 3, 2019, letter to you, they stated that the
purpose of the investigation is to determine "whether
certain officials within the Obama administration had actual
or apparent conflicts of interest because of Hunter Biden's
role in Rosemont Seneca and related entities or as a board
member of Burisma Holdings."

In the same letter, Chairman Johnson stated, "Recent
reports indicate that Blue Star Strategies sought to
leverage Hunter Biden's membership on the board of directors
for Burisma in its communications and meetings with various
U.S. Government officials."

During the first hour, you mentioned meetings that you
had with several Obama administration officials. Did you use Hunter Biden's name to secure a meeting with Under Secretary of State Catherine Novelli?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. SCHRAM: Did you use Hunter Biden's name to secure a meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary Amos Hochstein?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. SCHRAM: Did you use Hunter Biden's name to secure a meeting with Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. SCHRAM: Did you or your firm use Hunter Biden's name to secure a meeting with any State Department official?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not and we did not.

MR. SCHRAM: Did you or your firm use Hunter Biden's name to secure a meeting with any Government official?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not; we did not.

MR. SCHRAM: Did you or your firm ever meet with Vice President Biden on behalf of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not and the firm did not.

MR. SCHRAM: Did any of your meetings with any Obama administration officials on behalf of Burisma result in policy changes toward Ukraine?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It didn't--they did not.

MR. SCHRAM: Are you aware of any policy changes made in the Obama administration intended to benefit Burisma?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I am not aware of any policy changes that were made that would benefit Burisma.

MR. SCHRAM: Did Vice President Biden change Ukraine policy because of the influence of Blue Star Strategies?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Absolutely not.

MR. SCHRAM: Did the State Department change Ukraine policy because of the influence of Blue Star Strategies?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Absolutely not.

MR. SCHRAM: Did any U.S. Government official change Ukraine policy because of the influence of Blue Star Strategies?

MR. SCHRAM: To your knowledge, did Vice President Biden change Ukraine policy because of Hunter Biden's role on the board of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, not to my knowledge.

MR. SCHRAM: To your knowledge, did Vice President Biden change Ukraine policy in any manner to benefit his son?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, not to my knowledge.

MR. SCHRAM: Ms. Tramontano, in a February 24th letter, Chairman Johnson requested subpoena authorization for documents and an interview of Andrii Telizhenko. After bipartisan pressure from Committee members concerned about a Russian disinformation effort, the Chairman abruptly
withdrew the authorization request. In the letter Chairman Johnson described Andrii Telizhenko as a "former consultant to Blue Star Strategies." Is that an accurate description of Mr. Telizhenko's role at your firm?

MR. FOLIO: Hey, Zack, I'm going to--it's fine to quote from the letter, but, again, I'm just going to object to your characterization of what Chairman Johnson did and why he did it. This is something you're putting in your own words and not anything based on what Chairman Johnson has done or said.

MR. SCHRAM: I stand by everything that I just said, and there's ample public and Committee record to support it in its entirety, so thank you.

MR. FOLIO: I'm just being clear it's a statement of your opinion.

MR. SCHRAM: I disagree. It's a characterization of the facts.

Ms. Telizhenko, how would you describe--sorry. Ms. Tramontano, my apologies. How would you describe Mr. Telizhenko's role at your firm?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We brought him on as a contractor to handle administrative tasks on the ground in Ukraine for us and some translation.

MR. SCHRAM: And when did he work for Blue Star Strategies?
MS. TRAMONTANO: His contract began in July of 2016. It was suspended for a month in February—I believe in January or February of 2016, and then I believe it was terminated in May of—I'm sorry. It was suspended in January of—January or February of 2017, and then it was terminated in either May or June of 2017. So from 2016 to 2017, it was about, you know, a 10-month contract, I think, 10 or 11 months.

MR. SCHRAM: And why was the contract suspended?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Mr. Telizhenko was making statements to the press that were very critical of President Poroshenko, and it's, you know, our policy that, you know, none of our employees or certainly any of our contractors should be making public statements in foreign countries in which we work about the government or representatives of the government.

MR. SCHRAM: And why was his contract terminated?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, Mr. Telizhenko had promised that he wouldn't violate those—our policies again, and basically it happened again in—I believe it would have been around May 2017 where he was giving press interviews and, you know, making a lot of allegations, and we were no longer comfortable with having him as a contractor.

MR. SCHRAM: In the Chairman's letter of February 24th, Chairman Johnson claimed that your firm used Hunter Biden's
name as "leverage" based in part on conversations the
Chairman had with Andrii Telizhenko. Do you consider Andrii
Telizhenko to be a reliable source?

MR. FOLIO: Sorry, Zack. I have got to object. That
is not at all accurate. That is not what the letter says.
The only reference to Telizhenko in the letter I'm certain
is quoting from the Ken Vogel article.

MR. SCHRAM: Ms. Tramontano, are you aware that
Chairman Johnson met with Andrii Telizhenko in July of 2019?
MS. TRAMONTANO: No, I'm not aware of that.

MR. SCHRAM: And that subsequently he started citing
Mr. Telizhenko in letters related to this investigation?

MR. FOLIO: Again, Zack, to be clear, the only cite to
Andrii Telizhenko made in any of Chairman Johnson's or
Chairman Grassley's letters are citations to what he told
Ken Vogel in the Politico story that was published in

MR. GOSHORN: Joe, just to be clear, are you trying to
draw a distinction between citing Telizhenko directly and
citing the words Telizhenko said to somebody else in your
letter? Is that the distinction you're drawing?

MR. FOLIO: Correct. Yeah, there's not one place in
the Chairman's letter where they're drawing upon some sort
of private interview with Telizhenko as Zack seems to be
suggesting. Just to be clear--
MR. GOSHRON: So you're drawing upon claims Telizhenko made to others?

MR. FOLIO: Correct, yes.

MR. GOSHRON: So you're drawing upon Telizhenko's claims, just not the ones made to Johnson?

MR. FOLIO: Yes. There's no reference to anything Telizhenko said to Johnson or Grassley.

MR. GOSHRON: Okay.

MR. SCHRAM: In that case I'd like to introduce the February 24th letter as Exhibit A. Roy, can you pull up that letter, please.

[Tramontano Exhibit A was marked for identification.]

MR. SCHRAM: Ms. Tramontano, take as much time as you'd like to familiarize yourself with this letter. And I would suggest that Mr. Folio do the same.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Could somebody scroll it down so I can see it? I can only read the top part of it. Thank you.

[Pause.]

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. If you could scroll down further, please?

[Pause.]

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. If you could scroll down further, please?
MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. If you could scroll down further, please?

MS. TRAMONTANO: And if you would scroll down further?

MS. TRAMONTANO: And further, please?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Further, please?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Thank you.

MR. SCHRAM: Returning to the first page of this document, which cites Andrii Telizhenko, refers to Andrii Telizhenko at length, including conversations between the Chairman and Andrii Telizhenko, pointing to the third paragraph, the bottom of the first page, "In response, Mr. Telizhenko confirmed his intention to cooperate fully with the Committee's investigation and expressed his readiness to provide any evidence in his possession. During the course of our conversations with Mr. Telizhenko, he informed us that he worked as a consultant for Blue Star and he has responsive records from his time terrorism, specifically records relating to the work the firm did for Burisma."

MS. Tramontano, do you consider --

MR. FOLIO: Hey, Zack, just to be clear, you've now
switched documents. When you raised the issue and I objected about our reliance on Telizhenko, we were discussing the December 3, 2019, letter from Johnson and Grassley to Blue Star for records. In all of Johnson and Grassley's request for records, we have not cited anything said by Andrii Telizhenko except for things that were reported in the press. Now you've substituted a different letter in which we did cite Mr. Telizhenko and his statements that he worked at Blue Star Strategies, possessed records from Blue Star Strategies, and was willing to voluntarily provide those to the Committee but for his nondisclosure agreement with Blue Star Strategies. Those are all statements of fact that Ms. Tramontano has confirmed.

MR. SCHRAM: Joe, I can read--we can ask Ms. Gray to read the record back, but I cited to the February 24th letter, and I've introduced it as an exhibit now. And if you'd just let me proceed with the question, I think it's quite clear, as we've now demonstrated in the Chairman's own words, that he refers extensively to Mr. Telizhenko.

MR. FOLIO: Well, first, it's not extensive. I think you're referring to one letter. And he refers to Telizhenko for the uncontroversial proposition, which Ms. Tramontano has confirmed today, that he was employed by Blue Star Strategies, was in possession of records from the time of
his employment, and that he was willing to provide those to the Committee. The statement made to which I objected was that Andrii Telizhenko told the Committee that Blue Star leveraged Hunter Biden's relationship, and that was an incorrect statement. That statement was based entirely on a State Department email that was received publicly through FOIA.

MR. SCHRAM: Joe, I ask you again that you familiarize yourself with your own letter. Turning to the second page of this letter, the first full paragraph, "These records are important to the Committee's investigation for several reasons. First, records indicate that Blue Star Strategies sought to leverage Hunter Biden's role as a board member of Burisma to gain access to and potentially influence matters at the State Department." So--

MR. FOLIO: Correct, citing that same State Department email.

MR. SCHRAM: I don't think that it's to anyone's benefit for you and I to have this debate. I'm asking a factual question to Ms. Tramontano, and I'll try to respect your time when it's back on your time.

MR. FOLIO: And I apologize. I really don't want to intervene in your time. I just want to make sure--

MR. SCHRAM: Moving on--

MR. FOLIO: --the record is clear about Johnson's
letter and what it says.

MR. SCHRAM: Moving on. Ms. Tramontano, do you consider Andrii Telizhenko a reliable source?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not.

MR. SCHRAM: Why not?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He proved to us in his short term as a contractor that the information he provided when we requested information was not reliable and couldn't be verified.

MR. SCHRAM: Are you aware that in a July 2020 interview with BuzzFeed News, Mr. Telizhenko claimed, quote, We are going to expose corruption under the Obama-Biden administration in Ukraine and promise that, quote, there's a lot of new information still to come?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm aware of the article.

MR. SCHRAM: Ms. Tramontano, is Mr. Telizhenko's allegation concerning corruption in the Obama administration credible?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not find it credible.

MR. SCHRAM: Why not?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, as I said, when we would ask Mr. Telizhenko to conduct research or, you know, provide to her information, it was--the information he provided was, you know, conspiratorial in nature and unfounded, could not be verified. He couldn't provide facts. So we found it--we
found it to be unreliable.

MR. SCHRAM: Ms. Tramontano, are you aware that Mr. Telizhenko has amplified Russian disinformation efforts including that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 election?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I am aware of those allegations now, yes.

MR. SCHRAM: Are you aware that last week, the Senate Intelligence Committee published a bipartisan report that concluded that the theory Mr. Telizhenko promotes about Ukraine's 2016 election interference originated with a Russian intelligence officer named Konstantin Kilimnik?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm aware of the report, and I did actually review the report because I had an interest in it.

MR. SCHRAM: In your opinion, whose interest is Mr. Telizhenko advancing by promoting these theories?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He would be promoting Russia's interest, in my opinion.

MR. SCHRAM: Just a moment.

[Pause.]

MR. SCHRAM: Ms. Tramontano, are you aware that the chairman uses Mr. Telizhenko's name roughly 17 times in his letter of February 24th, 2020, and many more occasions across multiple letters throughout this investigation?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I know from reviewing the letters that he does refer to Mr. Telizhenko several times,
MR. SCHRAM: Does that give you reason for concern about the reliability of the information that the Majority is relying on, the credibility of the information that the Majority is relying on?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I certainly have concerns about Mr. Telizhenko's reliability. So I would certainly have concerns about anyone relying on his information.

MR. SCHRAM: Nothing more from us.

MR. WITTMANN: Hi, Ms. Tramontano. My name is Scott Wittmann. Thank you for your time today.

I want to--

MS. TRAMONTANO: Thank you.

MR. WITTMANN: Sure.

I want to begin by going to the cover letter that you sent to the committees on December 18, 2019. Okay. It should be up on the screen shortly.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. WITTMANN: And we're going to introduce this as Majority Exhibit 2.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 2 marked for identification.]

MR. WITTMANN: Roy, could you transfer the presenting authority over to Will, please?

[Pause.]
MR. WITTMANN: Ms. Tramontano, we're going to--this is the cover letter on the screen right now. Can you see this?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I can.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. We're going to scroll down to the second page.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. WITTMANN: In the cover letter, you wrote about meetings at the U.S. embassy in Kyiv that occurred on December 14, 2015. In one of these meetings, you met with William Laitinen, the economic counselor at the embassy. You noted that the meeting had been scheduled to discuss--had not been scheduled to discuss Burisma, as we had several other corporate clients interest in Ukraine's economic situation. To be fully transparent, we disclosed that we were working with Burisma and inquired to his views of the company.

How did you obtain the meeting with Mr. Laitinen?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I mean, to the best of my recollection, we just asked for it probably via email.

MR. WITTMANN: Directly to him or to his staff?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't know if they--if there were a written request, the committee--the committee would have it because we would have turned it over to the committee, but--so I don't have a present recollection, but typically, we just send an email and ask for the meeting.
MR. WITTMANN: If the meeting was not scheduled to discuss Burisma, why did you disclose that during the meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, we would always disclose to the U.S. government. You know, whenever we had embassy meetings, we would always disclose to the U.S. government who our clients were in the country. We do that as a matter of cause.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I want to turn—enter in our next exhibit as Exhibit No. 3. This will be Tab 3, Will.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 3 marked for identification.]

[Pause.]

MR. WITTMANN: We're going to pull it up shortly.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

[Pause.]

MR. WITTMANN: Ms. Tramontano, can you see this document on your screen?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. I'm sorry. There isn't a document on the screen yet.

It's on the screen now.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. We're going to scroll down to the bottom of that first page, and it looks—we want to ask about this particular email on December 15th, 2015. A Blue Star employee, Pero—and my apologies if I'm mispronouncing
the last name--Jolevski--

MS. TRAMONTANO: Jolevski.

MR. WITTMANN: Jolevski. Thank you. --wrote to Stephen--I'm sorry? Wrote to--

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, I just said Jolevski.

MR. WITTMANN: Jolevski. Okay. Thank you.

--wrote to Stephen Gonyea, a USAID official, about scheduling a meeting with Mr. Laitinen. Who is--

MS. TRAMONTANO: Mm-hmm.

MR. WITTMANN: Who is Pero?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He's an employee of Blue Star Strategies.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. And what's his position at Blue Star?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, his position now is he's a director. His position in 2015, I believe, would have been an associate.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Pero wrote Chip doesn't know anything about our work with Burisma, and they will probably not mention anything to him about it.

Mr. Gonyea responded this would be a very bad move not to mention this. Burisma linkages, good and bad, as you know, have a major news--have been a major news story and hugely politicized issue, especially during the recent visit. It's been used at--it's been used in attempts to
criticize U.S. policy and embarrass the ambassador.

Honestly would be the best—honesty would be the best policy, seriously.

Pero wrote I totally understand, but I think we are changing strategies.

Why did Blue Star not want to mention their work with Burisma in their meeting with Mr. Laitinen originally?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I told you we mentioned it. We disclosed.

MR. WITTMANN: Understand. But originally, it didn't--based on this email, did Blue Star not want to mention Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: This is an email that Pero wrote. I didn't--I didn't write it. We always disclose who, you know, our clients in-country when we're in a U.S. embassy meeting, and that's what we did.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know why Pero would have thought that you were considering not mentioning anything about Burisma to Mr. Laitinen?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not.

MR. WITTMANN: When you met with Mr. Laitinen, what was his awareness of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall.

MR. WITTMANN: Did Mr. Laitinen have any awareness of Mr. Zlochevsky?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not recall.

MR. WITTMANN: When you disclosed your association with Burisma to Mr. Laitinen, what exactly did you disclose to him?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We would have—you know, I would have just said, you know, among our clients are and told him who our clients were in—I mean, not the list of Blue Star Strategies' clients, but those clients with whom we were working in Ukraine.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you decide—besides Burisma, did you disclose any other clients to Mr. Laitinen at that meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We would have disclosed—the honest answer is I don't recall, but there were other clients that had—we represented Imperial Tobacco in Ukraine, and so there were—and they had an economic and a tax issue. So we would have—we would have mentioned—we would have mentioned them as a client.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Did Pero have the authority to decide what you would or would not disclose or discuss at this type of meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not at all.

MR. WITTMANN: Who would have had that authority?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I would have had that authority. Sally would have had that authority. As I said, Pero at the time—this was five years ago—he was an associate. That's
our--it's above the entry level of sort of our career ladder, but he would not have the authority. He would not have had the authority at that time.

MR. WITTMANN: In this early December 2015 meeting with Mr. Laitinen, did you discuss Vice President Biden's recent trip to Ukraine?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, not--not that I recall.

MR. WITTMANN: Was Mr. Laitinen aware of Hunter Biden's role on Burisma's board?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no idea whether he was aware of not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did Mr. Laitinen offer any views or share his perspective about Burisma with you during this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not that I recall.

MR. WITTMANN: We're going to go back to Exhibit 2. Tab 2, Will. This is the cover letter again, and we can scroll back to page 2 as a reference.

In this cover letter, you noted that you and Ms. Painter met with Amos Hochstein on December 10th, 2015.

MS. TRAMONTANO: That's correct.

MR. WITTMANN: What was discussed at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We asked Mr. Hochstein if she knew the factual basis for Ambassador Pyatt's statements about the company. We asked Mr. Hochstein if he had a view of the
company, and we asked Mr. Hochstein if he knew whether the
State Department had a position about the company.

MR. WITTMANN: What was Mr. Hochstein's position or his
professional position in the State Department at the time of
this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know the exact title of the
position, but it's the sort of energy czar, I think.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. How did you obtain this meeting
with Mr. Hochstein?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We asked him for it.

MR. WITTMANN: And this was directly to him or to his
staff?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I think it was directly to him. I
mean, Sally and I have known Amos for— I don't know—a
couple of decades probably.

MR. WITTMANN: So you reached out to him directly?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah. We would have just reached out
to him directly.

MR. WITTMANN: Did Mr. Hochstein know about Burisma
before he met with you?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know what he knew before he
met with us.

MR. WITTMANN: What was your— based on this meeting,
did he have awareness of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, he did.
MR. WITTMANN: Did he have any awareness of Mr. Zlochevsky?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We didn't talk about Mr. Zlochevsky.

MR. WITTMANN: What was his awareness of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, he was the energy czar. So he knew, you know—he knew about energy companies, you know, globally, I would guess, but he knew about the company. And, you know, he knew the company was a large private-sector energy company.

MR. WITTMANN: Was Mr. Hochstein aware of Ambassador Pyatt's statements that related to Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: To the best of my recollection he was aware of the statements. He did not—he was not aware of the basis for the statements.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you all discuss what the basis of those statements might have been?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, we didn't discuss what the basis of those statements would have been. Amos suggested we meet with Ambassador Pyatt.

MR. WITTMANN: And what was Amos' view of Burisma? Did he, in addition to having awareness of what the company does, did he have any other perspective regarding the company?

MS. TRAMONTANO: My recollection is he was negative.

MR. WITTMANN: And why was he negative?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't have a specific, you know, recollection that he--you know, that he stated reasons, but, you know, I recall that he was negative.

MR. WITTMANN: Did Mr. Hochstein's negative view of Burisma differ from the State Department's view?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no idea because I was--we were trying to find out what the State Department's view was, and we did not find that out.

MR. WITTMANN: How did you know that Mr. Hochstein's view was his personal view and not the view of the State Department?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He said it was his--he said it was his view.

MR. WITTMANN: And he didn't elaborate as to how he came to that--to hold that view?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall that he did.

MR. WITTMANN: Was Mr. Hochstein aware of Hunter Biden's role on Burisma's board?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I believe he was.

MR. WITTMANN: Was that discussed at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't believe that it was.

MR. WITTMANN: How do you know Mr. Hochstein was aware of Hunter Biden's role on Burisma's board?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I think he said that, you know, he knew Hunter was on the board, or Hunter Biden was on the
board, but I don't recall a discussion about it.

MR. WITTMANN: And you think he said that at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I believe he did.

MR. WITTMANN: Why was that issue brought up at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It wasn't brought up as an issue.

MR. WITTMANN: Why did Mr. Hochstein mention that at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You'll have to ask Mr. Hochstein that.

MR. WITTMANN: In addition to suggesting that you all meet with Ambassador Pyatt, did Mr. Hochstein offer any other advice to you?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, but he said he would be happy to reach out to Ambassador Pyatt and let him know that we would be seeking a meeting.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know if he ended up doing that?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall if he did. I mean, if he did and there were communications that we knew about, we would have submitted them to the Committee. Right now I don't have present recollection of that.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you request anything of Mr. Hochstein, including him reaching out to the ambassador?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We didn't make that request of him.

He offered.
MR. WITTMANN: And why do you think he offered that?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know. You'd have to ask him.

MR. WITTMANN: Were you surprised when he made that offer to you?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. As I said, I'd known Amos for, you know, probably, you know, 10, 15, maybe even 20 years, so no. I mean, this is somebody that I know. And, again, I'll repeat myself. We were trying to find out why Ambassador Pyatt said what he said and whether that reflected the view of the State Department or whether that was, you know, his view, and was the basis for his statements. And we asked Amos if he knew, and, you know, that was it.

MR. WITTMANN: Would you describe it that he said he would reach out to Ambassador Pyatt, did you think of that as a personal favor?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I didn't think of it as anything. He said--what I recall is he suggested we meet with Ambassador Pyatt. We said we would. And, you know, and I recall him saying, "And if you need any help I'm happy to reach out to him." That was it.

MR. WITTMANN: I want to go back to the cover letter-- Will, if you could put that up--also on page 2.

MS. TRAMONTANO: It's not on the screen yet.

MR. WITTMANN: Can you see it now?
MS. TRAMONTANO: Not yet, but it looks like it's coming. Okay. Yes, I can see it now.

MR. WITTMANN: At the bottom of that document, you noted that on December 14, 2015, you met with USAID representative Steve Gonyea. You noted that USAID had made the decision to decline Burisma's offer of assistance during the gas shortage. What did--

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm sorry. You're referencing a meeting but the page--I can't see the reference because the page keeps moving.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. We want to go to the bottom of page 2, Will, at that footnote. Keep it on the footnote. Thank you. It's in footnote number 3, Ms. Tramontano.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Okay. So if you could hold it there and just let me read it. Thank you.

MR. WITTMANN: Sure. Just let me know when you're ready.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. WITTMANN: You noted that USAID had made a decision to decline Burisma's offer of assistance--

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Could you just give me one more second?

MR. WITTMANN: Oh sure. Just let me know.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Thank you.

[Pause.]
MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Sorry. Thank you.

MR. WITTMANN: Oh, no worries. I'll just repeat the intro again, to the question. You noted that USAID had made a decision to decline Burisma's offer of assistance during the gas shortage. What did Burisma offer USAID?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't remember at this time what the offer was. I'm sorry.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know why USAID declined Burisma's assistance?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, I did not at the time, and as I recall, Gonyea was not clear about why.

MR. WITTMANN: And just so I understand, he wasn't clear during this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, that's correct. That's my recollection.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Did Burisma ever provide assistance to or cooperate with USAID?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Before we worked with Burisma, Burisma had offered assistance to USAID, and I believe that was accepted. I don't know the nature of it, but I believe there was an occasion where they did offer assistance and USAID accepted.

MR. WITTMANN: What was the type of assistance that was offered?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, I don't know. As I said, it was
before we were working with Burisma.

MR. WITTMANN: Before November of 2015?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. That's correct.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know the date of when this assistance was accepted?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not know that.

MR. WITTMANN: I'm sorry. The line was breaking up. You do not?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Oh, no, I'm sorry. I do not know the date.

MR. WITTMANN: How did you obtain this meeting with USAID in December of 2015?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I think we just sent an email asking for the meeting.

MR. WITTMANN: And email to Mr. Gonyea?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. I believe that's correct. I think it was put up on the screen previously.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. And during this meeting, did you get a sense of what Mr. Gonyea's awareness or perspective of Burisma was?

MS. TRAMONTANO: My recollection is that Mr. Gonyea was new to the position, and, I mean, that's my recollection. He was new to the position, or relatively new to Ukraine, and, you know, he did not have a lot of--you know, he didn't have a lot of background yet. That's my recollection.
MR. WITTMANN: When did USAID decline the company's assistance?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know the date.

MR. WITTMANN: Because based on how I read the cover letter, it seemed as if that had occurred prior to December 2015. Is that correct?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, I think--yes, it would have been prior to December 2015.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Do you know if it was before Blue Star took on Burisma as a client?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I believe it was.

MR. WITTMANN: Did Mr. Gonyea have any awareness of Mr. Zlochevsky?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not that I'm aware of.

MR. WITTMANN: Was that discussed at this meeting, Mr. Zlochevsky?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, not based on my recollection.

MR. WITTMANN: At this meeting, did you discuss Vice President Biden's recent trip to Ukraine?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, not that I recall.

MR. WITTMANN: Was Mr. Gonyea aware of Hunter Biden's role on Burisma's board?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no idea if he was aware of it.

MR. WITTMANN: Was that discussed at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. I didn't discuss Hunter Biden's
role at the meeting.

MR. WITTMANN: Was the topic mentioned at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No.

MR. WITTMANN: Why did Mr. Gonyea's perspective about Burisma matter to you?

MS. TRAMONTANO: As I said, we were trying to understand what the U.S. State Department position was, whether it had a position about Burisma. And so we were having meetings to learn that.

MR. WITTMANN: And what did you learn in this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: As I said, my recollection is that Mr. Gonyea was either new to the position or new to Ukraine, and he was, you know, just beginning to understand, you know, the, you know, the complexities of the country, and, you know, its stakeholders. So that's my recollection.

MR. WITTMANN: We're going to stay on this exhibit but go to the next page, Will, page 3, right at the top, regarding your meeting with Ambassador Pyatt on December 16, 2015. Could you tell us who attended this meeting, please?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I think I was--I mean, from--I think it was me, from Blue Star Strategies. And you're talking about the Yovanovich meeting, or were you talking about--

MR. WITTMANN: I'm sorry. The Ambassador Pyatt meeting on December 16, 2015.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.
MR. WITTMANN: We'll get to Ambassador Yovanovich in a little bit.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Sorry about that.

MR. WITTMANN: It's okay.

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, in that case it was Sally Painter and me in that meeting.

MR. WITTMANN: Where did this--I'm sorry.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Ambassador Pyatt was in the meeting, and, you know, I don't recall if there was someone else from the Embassy in the meeting. There certainly may have been but I don't recall.

MR. WITTMANN: And just based on your previous statement, it sounded like this meeting occurred at the U.S. Embassy?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. Yes, it occurred at the U.S. Embassy. There was--I mean, the record--there are emails that we submitted to the Committee that at some point we were--it was going to be a coffee somewhere in Kiev, but then it was ultimately held at the Embassy. My recollection is that it was ultimately held at the Embassy.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. And what was discussed at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We talked to the ambassador about the clients that we were working with, and asked his advice about, you know, a couple of potential clients, and that was
MR. WITTMANN: Did you discuss Burisma at this meeting?
I'm sorry. Go ahead.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. We told him--no, I said it was a brief meeting as I recall.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Did you discuss Burisma at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did. We told him that we were working with Burisma.

MR. WITTMANN: And did the ambassador have any reaction to that?

MS. TRAMONTANO: My recollection is he said he, you know, didn't want to discuss it, or, you know, something like that.

MR. WITTMANN: Did he say why he didn't want to discuss it?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Was--excuse me one second.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure.

MR. WITTMANN: You had mentioned earlier that Mr. Hochstein advised you to talk to the ambassador. Correct?

MS. TRAMONTANO: That's correct.

MR. WITTMANN: Specifically to get a better understanding of the State Department's view of Burisma. Is that correct?
MS. TRAMONTANO: Actually, to get a better understanding of the basis for Ambassador Pyatt's view of Burisma.

MR. WITTMANN: And going into this meeting, what was your understanding of the ambassador's view of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, it was negative. He had made a public statement earlier that year, as I said previously, either sometime in August or September, that was negative about the company. He singled the company out.

MR. WITTMANN: Why did you think it was a negative view?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Why did I think it was a negative view? The ambassador made a statement that was negative about the company, allegations about the company.

MR. WITTMANN: What type of allegations?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I don't recall specifically. I probably knew at the time but I don't recall specifically what the specific allegations were. But he was negative. He called the company out by name as, you know, a bad company. I don't recall the specific language he used.

MR. WITTMANN: Were you aware of any similar statements the ambassador made with regard to Mr. Zlochevsky? Specifically Mr. Zlochevsky.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, I was aware of statements that he had made about Mr. Zlochevsky as well.
MR. WITTMANN: And would you—was it your view at the
time that those statements were also negative?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I had no view of those statements. I
was trying to understand the ambassador's view of Burisma.

MR. WITTMANN: Was it your position that the
Ambassador's view of Burisma was the same as the view of the
U.S. Government?

MS. TRAMONTANO: As I said previously, we were trying
to determine that very question. We were trying to
determine whether the State Department's view was—or I
should say it in the reverse, whether Ambassador Pyatt's
view reflected the State Department's view or whether
Ambassador Pyatt's view was Ambassador Pyatt's view.

MR. WITTMANN: And were you able to make that
determination or any of those determinations following this
meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you have any reason to believe that
the Ambassador's view that he had publicly expressed wasn't
the view of the United States Government?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Based on my experience, there are
times when Ambassadors have a view that does not reflect the
State Department's view. That's what we were trying to find
out.

MR. WITTMANN: In your meeting with Ambassador Pyatt,
did you discuss Ukraine's prosecutor general?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, we did not.

MR. WITTMANN: In this meeting with Ambassador Pyatt, did you discuss Hunter Biden's role on Burisma's board?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.

MR. WITTMANN: At this meeting did you discuss Vice President Biden's recent trip to Ukraine?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did Ambassador Pyatt offer any advice to you regarding Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not regarding Burisma.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you request anything of Ambassador Pyatt at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not request anything.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you attempt to meet with anyone else during this time period, December 2015, did you attempt to meet with anyone else at the U.S. Embassy to discuss Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: The meetings that we had during that time have all been submitted to the Committee. I don't recall any other--any other meetings that we had.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I want to turn now to our next exhibit, which we'll enter into the record as Exhibit No. 4. Tab 4, please, Will.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 4]
MR. WITTMANN: And I'll have Will scroll down to the bottom of this email. Will, down to the bottom of the first page, please? And I'll give you a chance to read that Ms. Tramontano. Just let me know when you're ready.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. WITTMANN: On February 18, 2016, you emailed Under Secretary Catherine Novelli a request for a meeting. You wrote that you wanted to "discuss a matter on which I need your advice." You added, "Essentially, the U.S. Government has taken a position in a commercial matter regarding a Ukrainian individual, and I believe that position is in error."

So at this point when you wrote this, did you already know what the U.S. Government position was regarding--well, first of all, I should ask: What were you referencing in this line regarding a commercial matter about a Ukrainian individual?

MS. TRAMONTANO: The reference would have been to Burisma.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. And who is the Ukrainian individual?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It would have been the shareholder.

MR. WITTMANN: And who was that person?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Mykola Zlochevsky.
MR. WITTMANN: Okay. So based on this email, were you aware what the U.S. Government's position on Burisma and Zlochevsky?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, at this time, you know, I think this was—I don't see the date.

MR. WITTMANN: I'm sorry. We'll scroll up and show you that date.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Thank you.

MR. WITTMANN: Sure.

MS. TRAMONTANO: So it's February. Yeah, so at this time what we knew was Ambassador Pyatt's view and we knew from our meeting with Mr. Hochstein that he was negative.

So that's what we knew.

MR. WITTMANN: So at this time did you think that that view was the view of the U.S. Government?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, we were still trying to figure out if it were the U.S. Government's view and that was my reason for reaching out to Under Secretary Novelli.

MR. WITTMANN: You wrote, "The U.S. Government has taken a position." Was it your view at the time--

MS. TRAMONTANO: And as I said--no, and as I said, we knew what Ambassador Pyatt's view was, we knew what Amos' view was, and we were trying to figure out whether that was, you know, broadly the view of the U.S. State Department.

MR. WITTMANN: Was there a reason why you didn't ask
that question in your email?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, that's what we were trying to do, so--

MR. WITTMANN: You noted in your--

MS. TRAMONTANO: --that is asking for--sorry.

MR. WITTMANN: I'm sorry. Go ahead, go ahead.

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, please go ahead.

MR. WITTMANN: You noted in your email that the reason of the email was to discuss the matter, and you asked for Ms. Novelli's advice, and you--

MS. TRAMONTANO: That's correct.

MR. WITTMANN: And you noted that the position is in error. Why was the position of, according to this email, the U.S. Government in error?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, what we understood from Ambassador--about Ambassador Pyatt's position from the statement that he had made, as I said earlier, about the company and also about the U.K. decision was that U.K. decision and his statements about it, John Buretta had done some investigation of that, and the position was that it was in error.

MR. WITTMANN: At this point in time, had Mr. Buretta--

had Blue Star worked with Mr. Buretta at this point?

MS. TRAMONTANO: At this point in time, Mr. Buretta had been retained by Burisma. I believe at this point in time
he had been retained. I believe he was retained in January.

MR. WITTMANN: Why did you think that Under Secretary Novelli could help you with this matter?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I wasn't asking--I wasn't asking for any help.

MR. WITTMANN: For her advice.

MS. TRAMONTANO: I was asking for her advice. Under Secretary Novelli in her position had negotiated the sovereign guarantee for Ukraine, so I thought she would be someone who would know a bit about the situation in Ukraine.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you think that she would have--did you think that she had knowledge of Burisma and Zlochevsky at this time?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I didn't know whether she had knowledge of Burisma or Zlochevsky at this time. I learned that in...

MR. WITTMANN: I'm sorry, Ms. Tramontano. The line was breaking up. Do you mind repeating that? All I heard was, "I learned that."

MS. TRAMONTANO: I said I did not know whether she had knowledge of Burisma or Zlochevsky at this time. I learned she did not.

MR. WITTMANN: And how did you learn that?

MS. TRAMONTANO: At the meeting we had with her.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Why did you not name the
1 Ukrainian individual in the email to Ms. Novelli?

2 MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall.

3 MR. WITTMANN: Was there a reason why you didn't mention the name of the company Burisma, in this email?

4 MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't--I don't recall.

5 MR. WITTMANN: I want to go back to Exhibit 2. We're going to go to page 2.

6 MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

7 MR. WITTMANN: The second to last paragraph. Ms. Novelli--I'm sorry. Ms. Tramontano, we're going to move on to questions about the meeting with Ms. Novelli. Do you see the paragraph on your screen that begins with "The second incorrect assertion"?

8 MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I do.

9 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. In this cover letter, you acknowledged an internal State Department email about your request to Under Secretary Novelli. When you made the request to Ms. Novelli, we just saw the email directly to her. Did you have any follow-up conversations with her staff arranging this meeting?

10 MS. TRAMONTANO: As I recall, Ms. Novelli or Under Secretary Novelli responded to my email. It would be in the Committee documents. But my recollection is she responded to the email like, "Sure," or "Yes," or, you know, she agreed to the meeting. Subsequent to that, her staff was
preparing a briefing, a briefing for the meeting, and my best recollection is I had a phone conversation with her staff.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. And when did that phone conversation occur?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, it was prior to the meeting with Under Secretary Novelli, but I don't recall the--I don't recall the date.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you mention Hunter Biden's name?

MS. TRAMONTANO: My recollection when I was talking to her staff is I was asked a question about whether there was any U.S. content or U.S. involvement in Burisma, and I responded that Burisma purchases its equipment from U.S. companies and that Hunter Biden and Devon Archer, both U.S. citizens, were on the board.

MR. WITTMANN: And was there any other follow-up discussion after you mentioned that regarding those two specific facts?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, not to my--not to my recollection, no.

MR. WITTMANN: In this cover letter, in that same paragraph, you wrote, "Ms. Novelli agreed to the meeting and my request. The purpose of the meeting was to understand the State Department's position regarding Burisma as well as how the State Department came to that position." The date
of the meeting was March 1, 2016.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, I believe that's correct, yeah.

MR. WITTMANN: So at this time—or, rather, in this letter to the committees, you're saying that this is now—it is the position of the State Department that you wanted to discuss.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, that's correct.

MR. WITTMANN: What position did the State Department—did you want to specifically—what State Department position did you specifically want to discuss with Ms. Novelli?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We wanted to understand the State Department's position regarding Burisma and how the Department came to that position.

MR. WITTMANN: And what was the State Department's position regarding Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, that's what we were trying to—that's what we were trying to understand. We knew Ambassador Pyatt's position, we understood Mr. Hochstein's position, and we were trying to understand whether that was the State Department's view as well.

MR. WITTMANN: In this letter, you reference how—that you were trying to understand how the State Department came to that position.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, that's correct.

MR. WITTMANN: So was it your understanding that those
positions held by the Ambassador and Mr. Hochstein were the positions that the State Department had already reached?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, that's what we were trying to understand.

MR. WITTMANN: You mentioned that Mr. Buretta accompanied you at this meeting. Is that correct?

MS. TRAMONTANO: That's correct.

MR. WITTMANN: According to the cover letter, you met with Ms. Novelli on March 1, 2016. Correct?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, I believe that's correct. I mean, that's what the cover letter says, and I believe that was the time of the meeting.

MR. WITTMANN: And Mr. Buretta accompanied you at this meeting. Is that correct?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, he did.

MR. WITTMANN: Did anyone else attend this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall whether Under Secretary Novelli had a staff person in the meeting. I just don't recall that.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you prepare any materials for this meeting with Under Secretary Novelli?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not prepare any materials.

MR. WITTMANN: Did anyone on your staff prepare any materials?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, they did not.
MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I want to introduce our next exhibit into the record, Exhibit No. 5. Tab 5, please, Will.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 5 marked for identification.]

MR. WITTMANN: And we're going to go to page 2, please, Will, towards the top.

In emails about preparation for this meeting with Under Secretary Novelli, a State Department employee requested that Pero provide more details about the meetings, mainly the name of the Ukrainian official, and you responded.

Please scroll up, Will.

And you responded let's have a conversation with the staff person rather than engage in emails.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Mm-hmm.

MR. WITTMANN: Why did you want to--I'm sorry. Why did you want to have a conversation with the staff person rather than engage in emails?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Because I'm old, and I prefer to have conversations with people rather than exchange emails. I find it's not the best medium sometimes.

MR. WITTMANN: Was there any reason why you didn't want to put the name of the Ukraine official in an email?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. I just thought it would be best to have a conversation with the staff person, which is what
MR. WITTMANN: One moment, please.

Ms. Tramontano, I think I have time for one more question before our time is up.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure.

MR. WITTMANN: And that question is in line with what we were just talking about.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Mm-hmm.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you engage in conversations with a staff person?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I believe I did, and I referred to them in your previous question.

MR. WITTMANN: And what did you discuss with that staff person?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, as I said previously, my recollection is that I told him we were going to be discussing Burisma, explain the company, and he asked whether there was any U.S. persons or content involved in Burisma. And I responded affirmatively and explained that Burisma purchased its equipment from U.S. manufacturers, and that Hunter Biden and Devon Archer were on the board.

That's my recollection.

MR. WITTMANN: Thank you.

I'm going to turn it over to my colleague, Josh, for our last few questions.
MR. FLYNN-BROWN: No questions here.

I just want a quick statement regarding the Minority's opening statement. I think most of the elements of their opening statement have been addressed in previous interviews, but I just want to make this clear for the record.

Senator Grassley cares very deeply about the COVID pandemic and the effect that it's had on the American people and our financial system. He has taken and will continue to take all necessary steps he can to use his finance jurisdiction to assist the American people in our fight against the virus and support the United States economy. Any insinuation, implication, or direct statement to the contrary is not rooted in fact.

MR. WITTMANN: Thank you, Josh.

I believe our time is up for this round. Zack, I'm happy to turn it over to you, or, Ms. Tramontano, if you'd like a break, please let us know.

MR. SCHRAM: Would this be a good time for a lunch break, Ms. Tramontano?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, if I had, like, a five-minute break or ten-minute break that would be sufficient. I mean, I don't need much more.

MR. SCHRAM: Scott, do you know how many--

MS. TRAMONTANO: It's up to you.
MR. SCHRAM: --more rounds that you--how many more rounds you have?

MR. WITTMANN: I'm not sure at this point, Zack, but we can--yeah. Not sure at this point, Zack, but we can discuss.

MR. SCHRAM: Okay. So--

MR. WITTMANN: We're happy to give Ms. Tramontano 10 minutes if she would like.

MR. SCHRAM: I'm just wondering maybe this would be a good moment to take a little longer. It doesn't sound like you're wrapping up imminently. So why don't we take half an hour and come back at 1:40.


MR. SCHRAM: Sure thing.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. WITTMANN: Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 1:09 p.m., the interview was recessed, to reconvene at 1:40 p.m. this same day.]
MR. SCHRAM: Let's go on the record. Will, can you hand Roy presenter control, please?

MR. SACRIPANTI: Absolutely. Sending it over now.

MR. SCHRAM: Ms. Tramontano, during my last hour of questioning the majority interjected when I mentioned the name of Andrii Telizhenko. I'd like to draw your attention to a number of the Chairman's letters, where they are using Mr. Telizhenko, relying on Mr. Telizhenko as a source of information to further the investigation.

On December 6, 2019, Chairman Johnson's staff reached out directly to Mr. Telizhenko, requesting documents and his appearance for a voluntary transcribed interview. In a September 27, 2019, letter from the Chairman to Attorney General Barr, Mr. Telizhenko was quoted extensively from a May 29, 2019, John Soloman article. On November 1, 2019, the Chairman sent a letter to the National Archives. In that letter, Mr. Telizhenko is cited as the basis for requesting records concerning a January 2016 meeting with the White House and Ukrainian prosecutors. In that letter alone, Mr. Telizhenko is mentioned 11 times.

In the February 24, 2020, letter that we discussed, the letter from Chairman Johnson to Ranking Member Peters, Chairman Johnson requested that the Committee authorize a
subpoena for records and personal attendance for Mr. Telizhenko. On March 1, 2020, the Chairman requested, again, records of Mr. Telizhenko, as mentioned because of concerns of Committee members that Mr. Telizhenko narratives are part of Russian disinformation campaign. The Chairman pulled down a vote to authorize that subpoena.

Marking as Exhibit B, a photograph, that I will ask Roy to pull up.  

[Tramontano Exhibit B marked for identification.]

MR. SCHRAM: Ms. Tramontano, do you recognize the individuals in this photo?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Mr. Schram, the photo is not up yet. Oh, it's coming now. Give me one minute.

So that is Andrii Telizhenko and Senator Johnson.

MR. SCHRAM: That's all from us.

MR. WITTMANN: Thank you, Zack. Ms. Tramontano, can you hear me?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I can.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Thank you. I want to go back--

MS. TRAMONTANO: I can't see--

MR. WITTMANN: I'm sorry?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I said I can't see you, though.

MR. WITTMANN: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. TRAMONTANO: That's okay.
MR. WITTMANN: I can see you.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. WITTMANN: I want to pick up where we left off regarding the March 1, 2016, meeting with Under Secretary Novelli.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. WITTMANN: Could you talk about whether Ms. Novelli was aware of the U.S. Government's position regarding Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: My recollection is she was not aware.

MR. WITTMANN: What did you discuss at that meeting on March 1, 2016?

MS. TRAMONTANO: So to the best of my recollection, I told Ms. Novelli that we were working with Burisma, that Ambassador Pyatt had made statements about the company, and had made statements that we believed to be incorrect about the UK court decision. And I asked her if she was aware of the company or if she was aware of Ambassador Pyatt's remarks, and to the best of my recollection she said she was not aware of either.

MR. WITTMANN: So just so I understand, not only was she not aware of the government's position regarding Burisma but she also did not have awareness of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. That's my recollection.

MR. WITTMANN: And what about Mr. Zlochevsky? Did Ms.
Novelli have any awareness of Mr. Zlochevsky or the
government's position of Mr. Zlochevsky?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall that being part of the
conversation. I recall the conversation being about
Burisma.

MR. WITTMANN: And what was Ms. Novelli's reaction to
you telling her your position, that the government had--may
have taken a perspective or position regarding Burisma that
might have been in error?

MS. TRAMONTANO: As I recall, John Buretta offered to
explain his position about the case and why he thought it
was--why he thought Ambassador Pyatt's view was an incorrect
view. And, you know, I don't recall much more about the
meeting than what I've already said.

MR. WITTMANN: Were you surprised that Under Secretary
Novelli did not have any awareness of Burisma or Mr.
Zlochevsky?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall being surprised at
that, no.

MR. WITTMANN: Was it your expectation that she would
have awareness?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I didn't have any expectations.

MR. WITTMANN: Was Ms. Novelli aware of Hunter Biden's
role on Burisma's board?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We didn't talk about it.
MR. WITTMANN: Was Ms. Novelli aware of Devon Archer's role on Burisma's board?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not talk about that.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you discuss Ukraine's Prosecutor General?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, we did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did the Prosecutor General’s Office relate in any way to the UK case regarding Mr. Zlochevsky?

MS. TRAMONTANO: The only relationship that I recall was, again, Ambassador Pyatt's claim that the Prosecutor General's Office at that time did not provide any evidence to the UK case.

MR. WITTMANN: And did that specific point come up as part of your discussion with Ms. Novelli?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It did not come up as part of my discussion with Under Secretary Novelli. I believe John said--Mr. Buretta said that he reviewed the entire file and there were hundreds of documents submitted by the Office of the Prosecutor General for Ukraine.

MR. WITTMANN: When you left--when your meeting with Under Secretary Novelli ended, did you or Mr. Buretta have a better understanding of the government's perspective of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not, because Under Secretary Novelli had no knowledge of Burisma or the government's
position, nor was she aware of Ambassador Pyatt's statements.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you request anything of Ms. Novelli at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did Ms. Novelli offer any advice to you?

MS. TRAMONTANO: She did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I want to go back to Exhibit No. 2. This is the cover letter from December 2019.

[Pause.]

MR. WITTMANN: Ms. Tramontano, please let us know when this appears on your screen.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. It's now on my screen.

MR. WITTMANN: In the first paragraph that's on your screen, it mentions the second meeting that you had with Mr. Hochstein on March 24, 2016.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. According to this letter, you and Mr. Buretta attended the meeting with Mr. Hochstein. Did anyone else attend this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm sorry if there's a misunderstanding, but the second meeting, I did not attend the second meeting with Mr. Hochstein. It was Sally Painter--

MR. WITTMANN: Okay.
MS. TRAMONTANO: --if you look at the line, the sentence above, "While Sally Painter attended the meeting, the counsel led the briefing--"

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Thank you for--

MS. TRAMONTANO: --the first meeting.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Thank you for clarifying that.

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, that's fine.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you receive any debrief from this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall having received a debrief.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know what was discussed at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall. I mean, I wasn't in the meeting, so--

MR. WITTMANN: In the cover letter it talks about Burisma's counsel, Mr. Buretta, attending. It is fair to say that that meeting was about Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, the meeting was about Burisma, and as the letter said, Sally attended the meeting--Sally painter attended the meeting, but John Buretta led the briefing.

MR. WITTMANN: Could you explain what that means? Did he provide some sort of presentation?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I wasn't in the meeting.
MR. WITTMANN: Understood, but the letter that you submitted to the Committee talks about how Mr. Buretta led the meeting, and we're just seeking clarification on what that means.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I think it speaks for itself, but he led the briefing, so he was providing a briefing to Mr. Hochstein.

MR. WITTMANN: Why did Blue Star want to meet with Mr. Hochstein a second time?

MS. TRAMONTANO: When we met with him the first time, in December, we had agreed that we were going to follow up with him. I think that was the genesis of the second meeting.

MR. WITTMANN: And were there any developments between the first meeting and the second meeting regarding Mr. Hochstein's position or view of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not that I'm aware of.

MR. WITTMANN: Had there been any developments regarding what Blue Star believed the U.S. Government's position on Burisma was at the time?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We were still in the position of knowing what Ambassador Pyatt's statements were, and as I said, with what Mr. Hochstein's statements were. And the only other thing that we learned, which is what I just referred to, is that Cathy--I'm sorry, Under Secretary
Novelli, was unaware of Ambassador Pyatt's statements and was, you know, unaware of Burisma.

MR. WITTMANN: Was that--and just to confirm, was that discussed at this meeting, what Under Secretary Novelli's perspective or lack thereof regarding Burisma was?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I wasn't in the meeting, but you asked me did we learn anything further between these dates, so I was just sharing with you what we had learned. But I was not in the meeting so I can't tell you what was discussed in the meeting.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know if Mr. Hochstein's perspective of Burisma had changed?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no knowledge of whether his perspective has changed.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know whether the Prosecutor General's Office was discussed at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know whether it was.

MR. WITTMANN: Did Blue Star request anything of Mr. Hochstein at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I wasn't at the meeting, but I know we made no request of the U.S. Government so I do not believe we would have asked anything of Mr. Hochstein.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know if Mr. Hochstein offered any advice to Blue Star at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not that I'm aware of.
MR. WITTMANN: Did you engage in any preparations ahead of this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, I did not. I did not engage in any preparations before this meeting.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know if any preparations, any briefing materials were put together for this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. Yeah, because I wasn't in the meeting, you know, I wouldn't have any knowledge of that.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I'm going to enter in, as Exhibit 6, into the record. Tab 10 please, Will.

MR. WITTMANN: And Will, if you could scroll down. Ms. Tramontano, do you see this email on your screen?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. It's moving, but I do see it, yes.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I'm going to ask a couple of questions on the March 20, 2016, email that you sent. That should appear on your screen now. It goes on to the next page, so please let us know when you're ready for us to scroll down.


MR. WITTMANN: That's okay.

[Pause.]
MS. TRAMONTANO: So does it end with, "Sally, what do you think?" Is that the end of the email?

MR. WITTMANN: Will, please scroll up.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Or is there more? Oh, thank you.

MR. WITTMANN: Sure.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. WITTMANN: On March 20, 2016, you sent an email to your colleagues about Vadym's—and I'm sorry if I'm pronouncing that incorrectly—upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. on March 29, 2016. In the email you mention that Vadym would like to just stop by to see Hunter, no more than 30 minutes, because he does not have an agenda.

Why was Vadym traveling to Washington, D.C.?

MS. TRAMONTANO: If my recollection serves me correctly, President Poroshenko was coming to the U.S. to give a speech, and the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council was hosting a reception. So Vadym was coming to Washington to attend both the remarks and the reception. Assuming I get my dates right, I think that's why he was coming.

MR. WITTMANN: Why did Vadym want to meet with Hunter Biden?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Hunter was on the board.

MR. WITTMANN: And what was Vadym's position in Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Vadym was the advisor to the board of
MR. WITTMANN: Did Vadym know Hunter Biden?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm sure he did.

MR. WITTMANN: How did you come to learn that Vadym wanted to meet with Mr. Biden?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I think as I said in this email, I had a conversation with him, and we were putting his agenda together. And he indicated he wanted to meet with Hunter Biden.

MR. WITTMANN: How often did Vadym or other employees at Burisma meet with Hunter Biden?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I have no knowledge of how often they met. You know, what we, you know, submitted to the committee were a couple of meetings where we were putting his agenda together, and he indicated that he wanted to meet with Hunter. But I have no way of knowing how many times he met with Hunter.

MR. WITTMANN: Did Blue Star help facilitate those meetings for Vadym?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know what you mean by facilitate.

MR. WITTMANN: Work with scheduling?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah. Somebody on my staff would call the office and inquire about Hunter's availability.

MR. WITTMANN: In that same--in the same email, you
mentioned that on March 30th, 2016, the evening will be focusing on the pull-aside with President Poroshenko. What did you mean by this?

MS. TRAMONTANO: That we were trying to get a pull-aside with President Poroshenko.

MR. WITTMANN: Does that just mean a moment to speak with him? Is that what pull-aside means?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah. That's sort of the common definition of it, I think. Yeah.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Did you speak with President Poroshenko on March 30th, 2016?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Was anyone from Blue Star able to talk to Mr. Poroshenko that evening?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Sally Painter did.

MR. WITTMANN: And what did she discuss with him?

MS. TRAMONTANO: She told him we were going to be in Ukraine, and he motioned to Ambassador Chaly to help with any meetings we may need. And that was it.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know if Ms. Painter mentioned Hunter Biden's role on Burisma's board in her conversation with President Poroshenko?

MS. TRAMONTANO: She did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did President Poroshenko know Ms. Painter?
MS. TRAMONTANO: No.
MR. WITTMANN: Did she know that Burisma was a client of Ms. Painter's?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not believe that President Poroshenko knew that Burisma was a client of Blue Star Strategies, no.
MR. WITTMANN: Just one moment, please.
MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure.
[Middle of the conversation]
MR. WITTMANN: Ms. Tramontano, I just want to clear something up for the record. What specifically did Ms. Painter ask President Poroshenko or request of him?
MS. TRAMONTANO: She didn't ask--she didn't ask President Poroshenko anything nor did she request anything of him. As I recall, because I was standing next to her, she introduced herself and told President Poroshenko that we would be going to Ukraine, and he unsolicited called-- motioned to Ambassador Chaly and said, you know, please help them with any meeting request they may have.
MR. WITTMANN: And did you speak to Ambassador Chaly at that point in time after President Poroshenko called him over?
MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not speak to him at the reception, no.
MR. WITTMANN: Did you have any other conversations
with Ambassador Chaly following this event?

MS. TRAMONTANO: As we submitted to the committee, we sent an email, I believe, to the ambassador recalling what President Poroshenko had said and said we were seeking meetings, and I think we--my recollection of the document or the email lists, you know, a half a dozen--a half a dozen meetings with various ministries that we were seeking.

MR. WITTMANN: And were you seeking these meetings on behalf of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: There was only meeting we were seeking on behalf of Burisma, and that was a meeting with the general prosecutor's office.

MR. WITTMANN: And why did you want to meet with the general prosecutor's office?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Because there were a number of pending cases against the company, and the prosecutor general at that time, who I believe was Shokin--it may have changed to Sevruk--they were taking no action on them, and those cases were just hanging over the company's head. And we wanted to have a meeting to understand what their--you know, what the prosecutor general's next steps were. Were they going to prosecute, or what actions were they going to take?

MR. WITTMANN: What type of cases were pending?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Oh, there were--I mean, I don't recall at this time, but there were tax cases. There were a number
of cases that were pending.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know when those cases were open?

MS. TRAMONTANO: They were open at various times over a period of years. Some had been pending for quite some time.

MR. WITTMANN: What was the most recent case? When was that open?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't--I don't know. I don't recall.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know what prosecutor general opened those cases?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Oh, I mean, the prosecutor--the cases went--the cases were open before Shokin. To the best of my recollection, many of the cases were open before Shokin. Sevruk was only there a short period of time. My recollection is the cases had been--has been pending without action for, you know, years.

MR. WITTMANN: And Sevruk was the prosecutor general that came after Shokin; is that correct?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He was the acting prosecutor general, and I believe he was in the post for--as acting. He was never nominated to the Rada. So I believe he was in the post for, you know, maybe 60 days, maybe less.

MR. WITTMANN: I want to enter in our next exhibit.

This is Exhibit No. 7.

Tab 12, please, Will.
MR. WITTMANN: Ms. Tramontano, this is a briefing book that—for Vadym, for his meetings that we discussed earlier, but I just want to bring your attention to a specific meeting that we can scroll to on page 129. This is a March 31st--is this on your screen, Ms. Tramontano?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, it is. I'm sorry. I should have said that. Yep.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. This is a March 31st, 2016, meeting scheduled for Vadym with Hunter Biden at Rosemont Seneca Partners' offices in Washington. You're listed as the staffer of this meeting. Did this meeting occur?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I believe it did occur, yeah.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Did you attend this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did anyone else from Blue Star attend this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. No one did. We didn't attend those meetings.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know why you were listed as the staffer for the meeting if you did not attend?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. Because when we--when we have our staff prepare briefing books, there should always be
somebody listed if something, you know, were to go wrong or somebody needs to be contacted, and so we just try to have a staff person listed.

MR. WITTMANN: Did anyone from Blue Star accompany Vadym to the meeting or drive him to the meeting and then pick him up afterwards?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know what was discussed at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not.

MR. WITTMANN: We're going to go to the next exhibit. I will enter it in as Exhibit 8.

Tab 13, Will. 138, please, Will.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 8 marked for identification.]

MR. WITTMANN: Ms. Tramontano, this is a briefing book for Mr. Archer.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Uh-huh.

MR. WITTMANN: This is another--this is a March 31st, 2016, meeting, which appears to be the same time as Vadym's scheduled meeting with Mr. Biden. In Mr. Archer's briefing book, he is also scheduled to meet with Mr. Biden, and if we scroll down just a little bit to the next page, you are also listed as the staffer for this meeting.

Do you know if Mr. Archer attended the same meeting
with Vadym and Hunter Biden?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not know.

MR. WITTMANN: Was it your understanding at the time that this briefing booklet was put together that Mr. Archer would attend the meeting between Vadym and Mr. Biden?

MS. TRAMONTANO: That was not my understanding.

MR. WITTMANN: What was your understanding?

MS. TRAMONTANO: My understanding was that Vadym was meeting with Mr. Biden.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know why this meeting is listed between Mr. Archer and Mr. Biden in Mr. Archer's briefing book?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, Mr. Archer being a board member, we would have made him aware of what meetings were on the schedule.

MR. WITTMANN: Meetings with--that Vadym was taking?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, that's correct.

MR. WITTMANN: And did you provide this briefing book to any other board members?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. The briefing book was prepared for Vadym and for Devon--Mr. Archer and Mr. Pozharskiy.

MR. WITTMANN: Why were they only provided to those two individuals?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Because Mr. Archer attended the speech, and Mr. Archer attended the reception. And as I
recall, Mr. Archer attended the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council briefing that Vadym Pozharskiy gave, and as I recall, he may have attended one or more of the congressional meetings. And that's why he had a briefing book.

MR. WITTMANN: We're going to go back to Exhibit No. 2. Tab 2, please, Will. We're going to go to page 4, please, Will.

And, Ms. Tramontano, just let me know when this is on your screen and when you're ready for me to ask a question.

MS. TRAMONTANO: I can't see the page number. So is this the page that says, finally, I want to assure the committees' chairmen?

MR. WITTMANN: Yes, that's correct.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. WITTMANN: This is the final page and the cover letter that we've referenced earlier. In this paragraph that you wrote, I want to assure the committees' chairmen that at no time did I or anyone else in the firm working on behalf of Burisma collaborate or coordinate the development of implementation of our work with Hunter Biden.

You also noted Mr. Biden played no role in Blue Star Strategies' work on behalf of Burisma either in its limited scope in the U.S. or its more extensive scope in Ukraine.

If Mr. Hunter Biden played no role in Blue Star's work
on behalf of Burisma, why did Blue Star schedule or arrange a meeting between Hunter Biden and Vadym?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Vadym represented our client, Burisma, and he asked for a meeting with Burisma's board member, Hunter Biden. Since we were putting Vadym's schedule together, he asked if we would find the availability of Mr. Biden to meet with him. That's what we did.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you schedule any other meetings between Vadym and Mr. Biden?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, if my memory serves me—and the committee should have this—there is at least one other briefing book where Vadym came to Washington, and since we were putting his schedule together, he asked if we would find out Mr. Biden's availability on the days that Vadym was there to meet him.

MR. WITTMANN: When Vadym—

MS. TRAMONTANO: I believe that that's—there's one—I believe that there's one other briefing book that would indicate that, although there may be—there may be two. I mean, I—we submitted a lot of documents.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay.

MS. TRAMONTANO: So I can't be 100 percent sure if it's only one.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. When Vadym traveled to the United States, did he request that Blue Star schedule meetings with
other board members besides Mr. Biden?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, he did.

MR. WITTMANN: And who were those other board members?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Mr. Cofer Black, and Devon, Devon Archer, would have--would have been the only other person who we would have, you know, reached out to, letting him know that Vadym was coming to Washington if Vadym wanted to meet with him.

And I think, you know, there--I think in the documents we submitted to the committee, there would be a briefing book that included a meeting or perhaps two meetings with Mr. Cofer Black.

MR. WITTMANN: We're going to turn--we're going to enter into the record Exhibit 9.

Tab 14, please.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 9 marked for identification.]

MR. WITTMANN: Ms. Tramontano, let me know when you can see this on your screen, and we will scroll up.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah. It's on the screen, so you could--

MR. WITTMANN: Just let us know when you'd like--

MS. TRAMONTANO: But it's kind of--

MR. WITTMANN: I'm sorry.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Could you scroll down to the beginning
MR. WITTMANN: Sure.

MS. TRAMONTANO: It's in the middle of the page. Does it start with most sincerely, Karen, or--

MR. WITTMANN: So that--so this is--this is the beginning of the document on this page.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. WITTMANN: And we can--just let us know when you'd like us to scroll up.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Yeah. If you could scroll up, that would be helpful.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay.

[Pause.]

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Is there a part before--this says Dear Sally and Karen, it was nice seeing you at the embassy. This is my email, and with regards, Andrii Telizhenko. Is that what you're asking about?

MR. WITTMANN: We're going to keep scrolling up, please, Will.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Oh. Oh, okay. Great.

MR. WITTMANN: And my question is going to relate to this, to your email, actually. So let me know when you're ready.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. I'm ready.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay.
MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm just going to read it just for one second.

MR. WITTMANN: Yeah, sure.

[Pause.]

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. On March 22nd, 2016, Mr. Telizhenko emailed you and Ms. Painter, commenting on your visit to the Ukraine embassy and thanking you for your help. At this point in time, where does--where is Mr. Telizhenko working?

MS. TRAMONTANO: So I'm sorry. I didn't see the email where he thanks us for our help. I was reading the email. I thought you wanted me to read the--

MR. WITTMANN: Sure. We'll scroll--we can scroll down on the screen.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. I mean, I just didn't read--I didn't read that. You told me to read the one that I wrote.

MR. WITTMANN: Oh, sure.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Okay. Great. So you can just scroll back up to my email. I think that what you want to ask me a question on, right?

MS. TRAMONTANO: So my first question was, at this point in time, where is Mr. Telizhenko working? Who does he work for?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He was working at the embassy.
MR. WITTMANN: And--

MS. TRAMONTANO: That's where we met him.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. And did you meet him at a meeting around this time period?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. Sally and I requested--and again, this is in the documents. I think all the requests are there. Sally and I, I think, initially had requested a meeting with the ambassador. He wasn't available. There's several emails going back and forth, and we met with the--I think--I think she was the DCM at the time, and Andrii Telizhenko was--as I recall was in that meeting.

MR. WITTMANN: And who was the woman that you met with?

What was her name?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah. I wish I could remember. I'm sorry. It's--

MR. WITTMANN: Was it Oksana Shulyar?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes.

MR. WITTMANN: Does that refresh your recollection?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It was. Thanks.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. It helped.

MR. WITTMANN: And Mr. Telizhenko attended this meeting; is that correct?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. I believe he did. Yeah.

MR. WITTMANN: In this email chain, the email that you
see on your screen right now, you responded to Mr. Telizhenko, Sally and I will be in Kyiv, April 6th, 7th, and 8th. The attorney from the U.S., John Buretta, who has reviewed the matter we discussed, and I would like to meet with the general prosecutor on April 5th, preferably in the afternoon.

What was the matter you discussed with Mr. Telizhenko that you referenced in this email?

MS. TRAMONTANO: The matter we discussed is what I had referred to before, that there were many cases pending at the office of the prosecutor general, and we wanted to learn whether the prosecutor general had any next steps for these cases or were they, you know, not going to, you know, continue to do what they had done and have them just linger. And that was the matter that we had discussed, best of my recollection.

MR. WITTMANN: And did you--I'm sorry. Thank you. Did you specify to Mr. Telizhenko that these cases had to deal with Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't--I don't think we had a--at least I don't recall a specific discussion about specific cases. As I said, there were a range of cases that were pending against the company.

MR. WITTMANN: So at this point in this discussion that you referenced with Mr. Telizhenko, you had not brought up
Burisma specifically?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Oh. No, we had--I'm sorry. To be clear, yes, we had brought up Burisma, and my--we did not bring up, you know, specific cases that were pending.

MR. WITTMANN: I understand. And did you just bring up Burisma to Mr. Telizhenko, or did this come up in your meeting with Ms. Shulyar?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It came up in our meeting with Ms. Shulyar that Mr. Telizhenko attended. We had the meeting to inform them of the clients we had, including Burisma, and the meetings that we were seeking. So, yes, it came up in that discussion.

MR. WITTMANN: Was Mr. Telizhenko in a position to help you to arrange a meeting or schedule a meeting with the prosecutor general on your behalf?

MS. TRAMONTANO: The embassy offered their assistance and Mr. Telizhenko's assistance, which was delivering a letter to the prosecutor general and following up to coordinate the dates.

MR. WITTMANN: At the meeting with Ms. Shulyar and Mr. Telizhenko, when you raised Burisma, did either of them have awareness of the company?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I mean, I don't specifically recall.

MR. WITTMANN: Did anyone else either in the embassy or Blue Star attend this meeting?
MS. TRAMONTANO: Sally Painter attend the meeting. I believe it was the both of--both of us attended that meeting. If my memory serves me, I think we were both there. There wasn't anybody else there.

MR. WITTMANN: Did either Ms. Shulyar or Mr. Telizhenko know the prosecutor general personally?

MS. TRAMONTANO: When we met with them, the prosecutor general was Mr. Shokin, and I have no knowledge as to whether either of them knew Mr. Shokin. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Shokin was fired, and Mr. Sevruk was named acting prosecutor general. And I have no idea whether either of them knew Mr. Sevruk personally.

MR. WITTMANN: One moment, please.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure.

MR. WITTMANN: At the meeting with Ms. Shulyar and Mr. Telizhenko, did either one of them offer any indication about Mr. Shokin and any issues he might be having in the upcoming days?

MS. TRAMONTANO: What I recall--what I recall being said by the DCM was that President Poroshenko was changing his cabinet officials, and that before we started requesting meetings, we should wait. But it was a reference to changing cabinet officials.

MR. WITTMANN: And that reference to telling you to wait, was that--who made--who told you this?
MS. TRAMONTANO: The DCM.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. At this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, it was at that meeting.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. When did you meet with Mr. Sevruk?

MS. TRAMONTANO: So it's in the--it's in the records that we submitted to the committee. I don't have the specific date in front of me, but I believe it was in April of 2016.

MR. WITTMANN: And did you make any requests of Mr. Sevruk's office at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not make any request of his office.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you discuss the issue relating to Burisma and the pending cases?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did. John Buretta led the discussion, the substance of which were there were--and these cases had lingered a long time. Some of the cases relied on the factual predicate that was disproven in the UK case, and we--you know, and he was trying to engage in learning what the prosecutor general's--or acting prosecutor general's plans were with regard to these pending cases.

MR. WITTMANN: At this meeting with Mr. Sevruk, did you discuss the previous prosecutor general, Victor Shokin?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.
MR. WITTMANN: Did Mr. Sevruk discuss or mention the previous prosecutor general, Victor Shokin?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not in my memory, no. I don't believe he did.

MR. WITTMANN: Was he aware of Burisma when you met with him in April 2016?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Honestly, it was difficult to determine. His English was not very--not very good. As I said before, you know, my Ukrainian is nonexistent, and my Russian is nonexistent. And neither Sally nor John spoke either language. The translator that was in the room, let's just say it was not--I would not call it a productive dialogue in any way.

MR. WITTMANN: Did Mr. Telizhenko attend this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you debrief him following the meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did he request any information from you about the meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you leave the meeting with better--would you say you left the meeting with any insight into the PGO's view of Burisma following the meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I had--we left the meeting with no
additional insight as to the PGO's next steps that were under consideration regarding Burisma.

MR. WITTMANN: Just one moment, please.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure.

[Pause.]

MR. WITTMANN: Zack, we're going to have a new line of questioning coming up. So this might be a good time, and I think we only have a few minutes left in our time. So we're happy to hand it over to you, Zack, if you're ready to go, or, Ms. Tramontano, if you would like a break, please let us know.

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm fine. Thank you.

MR. SCHRAM: Scott, do you know how many more rounds you expect?

MR. WITTMANN: Not at the moment, Zack. I know that we're going to have at least one more round, but we're still trying to--hopefully, we'll have a better idea after the next round.

MR. SCHRAM: All right. It's 2:45 now. Give us five to plan for how the rest of the afternoon goes. We might not have much more to add, but let's come back at 2:50. And we'll suggest a course of action.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Thank you.

MR. WITTMANN: Does that work for you, Ms. Tramontano?
MS. TRAMONTANO: Sorry. Yes.

[Recess.]

MR. FOLIO: Zack, we'll be turning it over to you for a few questions, but I just had a logistical thing I wanted to highlight. So we've looked at where we are in the outline, Ms. Tramontano, Peter, and everyone else, and I think that we have a fair amount of information left to cover. And I know, Peter, that you had highlighted trying to wrap up by 4:00. So I don't think that we'll be able to conclude today and then walk through all the documents that are prepared to talk about. So I just wanted to flag for you that, you know, we'll do our next round of questioning but I just don't think we'll be able to conclude today. So we'll do our best to stop right on 4:00, and then we'll talk about what's left to do.

MR. KADZIK: Well, if you need to go until 4:30, Ms. Tramontano has something then, but we'd ask you to wrap up by 4:30.

MR. FOLIO: We were thinking that as well, that if we could get it done between 4 and 4:30, ask you to forge ahead. Unfortunately, I think that there's just more than that that we would need to cover, so it's probably cleaner just to shoot for 4:00 wrap-up and talk about another day.

MR. KADZIK: Yeah. I wouldn't be too sure about talking about it another day, quite frankly. I think six
and a half hours is more than enough time for you to finishing your question, and that's about all we're willing to provide.

MR. FOLIO: Well, I think that's a bridge we'll have to cross.

MR. KADZIK: Okay.

MR. FOLIO: I mean, we're happy to go until 4:30, but just--

MR. KADZIK: Yeah. Let's go to 4:30. That would be great.

MR. FOLIO: Okay. That's fine. It doesn't change our position that we anticipate it taking longer, but we'll do that. Thanks.

All right, Zack.

MR. SCHRAM: Ms. Tramontano, did you ever consult with Vice President Biden as part of your representation of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. No, never.

MR. SCHRAM: Did Vice President Biden ever direct your strategy with respect to representing Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. Not at all.

MR. SCHRAM: Did Vice President Biden ask you to take a meeting with the Prosecutor General's Office with respect to Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Never.
MR. SCHRAM: On behalf of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No.

MR. SCHRAM: Are allegations to the contrary false?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Any allegations that we had any conversations with the Vice President about Burisma are absolutely false.

MR. SCHRAM: What about allegations with respect to advocating on behalf of the Vice President's interest in your dealings with Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It's absolutely false.

MR. SCHRAM: The majority spent hours reviewing meetings that you had with Obama administration officials. Did you continue to represent Burisma to Trump officials, Trump administration officials?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, we did. We had many meetings with officials in the Trump administration.

MR. SCHRAM: Did any Trump administration officials speak at events that you sponsored or organized?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes. The Deputy Assistant Secretary spoke at one of the conferences in Monaco, I believe in 2018 or 2019. I don't have the documents in front of me, but it was during the Trump administration. It was the Deputy Assistant Secretary.

MR. SCHRAM: At previous conferences in Monaco had you invited Obama administration officials to participate?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't believe we invited any Obama administration officials to participate.

MR. SCHRAM: Did any Obama administration officials ever participate under their own volition?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, they did not.

MR. SCHRAM: So how did it come to pass that a Trump administration official participated in the conference in Monaco?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He reached out to--actually, he reached out to our offices and he reached out to Burisma directly, that he wanted to be on one of the panels.

MR. SCHRAM: Nothing else from us.

MR. BRADY: Hi, Ms. Tramontano. My name is Quinton Brady. I'm with Chairman Grassley's staff. Can you hear me okay?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I can. Thank you.

MR. BRADY: Great. I just want to reiterate our appreciation for you taking the time today. I just have two quick questions for you.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay. Thank you.

MR. BRADY: Did you, Sally Painter, or Blue Star Strategies ever seek or receive an advisory opinion from the Department of Justice regarding registering under the Foreign Agent Registration Act as it pertains to your firm's representation of Burisma?
MS. TRAMONTANO: No, we did not.
MR. BRADY: Did not?
MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.
MR. BRADY: Did you, Sally Painter, or Blue Star Strategies ever receive a FARA letter of inquiry from the Department of Justice as it pertains to your firm's representation of Burisma?
MS. TRAMONTANO: We have not.
MR. BRADY: Thank you. That's all for me. I'm going to pass it over to Brian.
MR. DOWNEY: Hi, Ms. Tramontano. How are you?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm very well, thank you.
MR. DOWNEY: When we left off, where Mr. Wittmann was, we were still in the spring of 2016, so we're going to kind of continue in that time period, to give you a frame of reference.
MS. TRAMONTANO: Thank you.
MR. DOWNEY: This will be Exhibit 10. Will, it's Tab 17, if you could pull that up, please.
[Tramontano Exhibit No. 10 marked for identification.]
MR. DOWNEY: So on May 25, 2016, you emailed Mr. Telizhenko about your plans to meet the new Prosecutor General of Ukraine. You wrote, "We will be sending a letter to the new Prosecutor General requesting a meeting. Once
again, we would like your advice." What advice did you seek from Mr. Telizhenko?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Mostly who to, you know, send the letter to.

MR. DOWNEY: Why did you think Mr. Telizhenko was in a position to offer the advice you were looking for?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, he was at the Embassy and so he would--we thought he would know to whom, you know, to email the letter. Did the new Prosecutor General, for example, have a chief of staff? So that's why we asked him the question.

MR. DOWNEY: At this time, in May of 2016, did you trust Mr. Telizhenko's advice?

MS. TRAMONTANO: To the extent that he could tell us to whom to email a request for a meeting, yes.

MR. DOWNEY: Why, in May of 2016, did Blue Star want to meet with the new Prosecutor General?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Same reason as I have articulated before. There were many pending cases against the company. Previous Prosecutor Generals had not moved on those cases, and the company had, either those cases moved to prosecution or, you know, dispensed with in accordance with rules of evidence.

MR. DOWNEY: So at that point, in May of 2016, was there any indication that the cases lingering against
Burisma and Zlochevsky in the PGO was part of the reason the
U.S. Government viewed Burisma as corrupt?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no idea what the basis for--
one, I have no idea what the U.S. Government's position was
with regard to Burisma, nor do I have any idea what the
basis for that opinion, should the State Department have had
an opinion.

MR. DOWNEY: In this May 25, 2016, email, you also
mentioned that John Buretta would draft a letter requesting
the meeting. Why was this necessary?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, usually when you're seeking a
meeting you would draft a letter to request it.

MR. DOWNEY: And why was it important that it came from
Mr. Buretta and not yourself or Sally Painter at Blue Star?

MS. TRAMONTANO: John Buretta had been brought on as
counsel by Burisma, and I thought it was appropriate that
John Buretta send the letter to the Prosecutor General.

MR. DOWNEY: And who was the Prosecutor General in May
of 2016?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Mr. Lutsenko.

MR. DOWNEY: Okay. We're going to enter in Exhibit 11,
which is Tab 18, Will, please.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 11 marked for identification.]

MR. DOWNEY: So this is a June 7, 2016, email from Mr.
Telizhenko to you, Ms. Tramontano. Mr. Telizhenko wrote, "I wanted to recommend to, in the official request letter, to take away Mr. Zlochevsky's company name and his name. Just request a meeting and put just the topics you wanted to discuss, except Zlochevsky. I will brief you more when you come to Kiev, but because the President does not really like Zlochevsky (he has personal issues), Mr. Lutsenko will deny the meeting if his name stays in the letter. You can raise the issue during the meeting, but on the official letters I would recommend to remove it. I spoke to the chief of staff. He is ready to meet, but please take off the name of the company and his name."

What was your reaction to Mr. Telizhenko recommending that you remove all references to your client, Burisma, and its owner, Mr. Zlochevsky, in your meeting request to Mr. Lutsenko?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I thought it was odd, because that was the very purpose of the meeting. John's letter was requesting a meeting to discuss the cases pending against Burisma.

MR. DOWNEY: What was your reaction to Mr. Telizhenko's statement that the President does not like Mr. Zlochevsky and that Mr. Lutsenko will deny the meeting if Mr. Zolchevsky's name stays in your meeting request letter?

MS. TRAMONTANO: There was no basis for his statement,
and he never articulated what the basis for that statement was.

MR. DOWNEY: Outside of Mr. Telizhenko's statement in this June 2016 email, did Blue Star have any indication how President Poroshenko viewed Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.

MR. DOWNEY: Was it important to know what Mr. Poroshenko's view of Burisma was?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It was not.

MR. DOWNEY: Why not?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Because the Prosecutor General was the person that we were focused on and had the authority to deal with the pending cases.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Telizhenko noted that he would brief you more when you arrived in Kiev. Did Mr. Telizhenko provide more information about the President's views of Mr. Zlochevsky when you arrived in Kiev?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. That's what I was referring to. He never articulated the reasons for that statement.

MR. DOWNEY: Did you know what President Poroshenko's relationship was to Mr. Shokin?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no personal knowledge of Mr. Poroshenko's relationship with Mr. Shokin, no.

MR. DOWNEY: During your work for Burisma and Mr. Shokin's removal in the spring of 2016, were you made aware
1 of how that decision, for Mr. Poroshenko to remove Shokin,
2 came about?
3 MS. TRAMONTANO: I only know what I read in news
4 reports.
5 MR. DOWNEY: And what was that?
6 MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, the news reports generally
7 stated that Mr. Shokin was not doing his job as the
8 Prosecutor General.
9 MR. DOWNEY: Did Burisma view Mr. Shokin as not doing
10 his job as Prosecutor General?
11 MS. TRAMONTANO: We never had a discussion about that.
12 MR. DOWNEY: You never discussed with Burisma about Mr.
13 Shokin?
14 MS. TRAMONTANO: We never had a discussion about Mr.
15 Shokin. By the time we had our meetings with the Prosecutor
16 General, Mr. Shokin was no longer in office.
17 MR. DOWNEY: Understood. We're going to go to Exhibit
18 12, and this will be Tab 19, Will.
19 [Tramontano Exhibit No. 12 marked for identification.]
20 MR. DOWNEY: On June 10, 2016, Ms. Tramontano, you
21 thanked Mr. Telizhenko for his assistance and wrote, "I hope
22 you received the revised letter. Is there any news to
23 report? I look forward to seeing you in Kiev. All the
24 best." Did Blue Star make the changes to the letter that
was sent to the Prosecutor General that Mr. Telizhenko
recommended?

MS. TRAMONTANO: John Buretta made the changes.

MR. DOWNEY: And what changes did Mr. Buretta make?

MS. TRAMONTANO: As I recall, and I believe this
document is in the submission, he changed the agenda items
to take the name of the company off the agenda items.

MR. DOWNEY: So Mr. Buretta followed Mr. Telizhenko's
advice?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He took the references off the agenda.

I don't think there was any change to the letter.

MR. DOWNEY: Understood. We're going to go to Exhibit
13, which is Tab 21, will.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 13 marked for identification.]

MR. DOWNEY: According to your calendar, on June 22,
2016, you were schedule to meet the Prosecutor in Kiev. Did
this meeting occur?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah. I had a meeting with--John
Buretta and I had a meeting with Prosecutor General
Lutsenko.

MR. DOWNEY: Did anyone else attend the meeting besides
you and Mr. Buretta?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Vadym Pozharskiy was in the meeting,
and the meeting was actually set up--Mr. Telizhenko could
1 never get the meeting to be scheduled, so the meeting was
2 actually scheduled with the help of a parliamentarian. And
3 I just honestly don't recall whether the parliamentarian was
4 in that meeting. I don't believe that he was.
5
6 MR. DOWNEY: Do you remember the name of that
7 parliamentarian?
8
9 MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't, and I actually, you
10 know, looked, you know, as we were going through these
11 documents. I was looking for any references, but I
12 couldn't--I couldn't find one. You know, it was years ago,
13 and I just don't remember his name.
14
15 MR. DOWNEY: What was discussed at this meeting with
16 Prosecutor General Lutsenko?
17
18 MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, the discussion generally was
19 similar to the previous discussion with the acting General
20 Prosecutor Sevruk. It was to state that the cases had been
21 pending for a long time, that it would be good to know what
22 Mr. Lutsenko as the new prosecutor general, what plans he
23 had regarding these cases, and that a number of the cases
24 relied on the factual predicate of the case that had been
25 decided in the UK.
26 And as I recall, John encouraged Mr. Lutsenko to read
27 the UK decision and the evidence that had been submitted by
28 both parties.
29
30 MR. DOWNEY: During this meeting, did the topic of
Ambassador Pyatt's view of Burisma come up?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It did not.

MR. DOWNEY: During this June 22nd, 2016, meeting with the PGO, did Lutsenko seek to understand Ambassador Pyatt's view of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: There was no discussion about Ambassador Pyatt.

MR. DOWNEY: Was there a discussion about the U.S. government's view of Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: There was no discussion about the U.S. government's view of Burisma.

MR. DOWNEY: So Mr. Buretta didn't bring up what the U.S. government's view of Burisma was?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. As I said before, we're never clear--never did we have a clear understanding what the U.S. government's position of Burisma was, and it was not a topic for discussion in this meeting.

MR. DOWNEY: In this June 22nd, 2016, meeting with the PGO, were you able to determine how many cases were pending against Mr. Zlochevsky or Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. I mean, I don't have a recollection of the number of cases. There were a number of cases, but I don't know the exact number of cases.

MR. DOWNEY: So you left that meeting with the PGO not knowing the exact quantity of cases that were open against
Burisma or Mr. Zlochevsky?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Mr. Buretta may have known. I didn't know.

MR. DOWNEY: Did you discuss Hunter Biden's role on Burisma's board during this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.

MR. DOWNEY: Did you discuss any other Burisma board members during this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.

MR. DOWNEY: Did you discuss Vice President Biden's role in U.S.-Ukraine policy during this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.

MR. DOWNEY: Did you or John Buretta or Vadym request anything of Prosecutor General Lutsenko during this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: The only request that I recall was John Buretta, I would say, encouraged the new prosecutor general to read the decision, the UK decision.

MR. DOWNEY: After the meeting with Lutsenko, did you communicate further with Mr. Lutsenko or any other individuals in his office?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, what happened shortly after the meeting sometime in July, I believe, Mr. Lutsenko froze bank accounts, assets, pipelines of Burisma.

MR. DOWNEY: Did you or Mr. Buretta or Ms. Painter make any U.S. government official aware of your meeting of June
22nd, 2016, with Prosecutor General Lutsenko?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't--I don't recall that we--I don't recall that we did at that time.

MR. DOWNEY: So you--Blue Star didn't make the U.S. embassy in Kyiv aware of their meeting with the prosecutor general's office?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, I don't believe that--I don't believe that we did at that time. As I recall, I think--I don't think there was an ambassador post, and we were in-country, I believe, for a very short period of time.

MR. DOWNEY: Did Blue Star offer anything to Prosecutor General Lutsenko?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We didn't offer anything to him, no.

MR. DOWNEY: Okay. We're going to go to Exhibit 14, which is Tab 27.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 14 marked for identification.]

MR. DOWNEY: So Exhibit 14 is a June 27, 2016, email that Ms. Painter sent to the State Department and said per my conversation with Tony at the Truman event, Karen Tramontano and I would like to have a brief coffee with Tony at his earliest convenience regarding some troubling events we are seeing in Ukraine. He said yes. Who is Tony?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I think that would be Tony Blinken.

MR. DOWNEY: And who is Tony Blinken?
MS. TRAMONTANO: Tony Blinken at the time, I believe, was at the--well, I don't know. I think he as at the State Department, Deputy Secretary of State at the time, I believe.

MR. DOWNEY: And how did you and Ms. Painter know Mr. Blinken?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I've known Mr. Blinken for a couple of decades. I came to know him when he worked at the Senate for then Senator Biden as his foreign policy advisor, and I was doing work with the Secretary-General of the ILO. And that's--I mean, if memory serves me, I think that's one of the first times I met Tony, Mr. Blinken.

MR. DOWNEY: What did you want to discuss with Mr. Blinken based off this June 27, 2016, email?

MS. TRAMONTANO: So we had--it had come to our attention that the DCM at the Ukrainian embassy was making a false allegation about our firm, and we were quite upset about it. And we were seeking Tony's--Mr. Blinken's advice.

MR. DOWNEY: Who was the DCM you're referring to?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Mr. George Kent.

MR. DOWNEY: And what was Mr. Kent alleging about Blue Star?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He was stating that we represented somebody that we did not represent nor did we know, and he had--he had made the statement, it came to our attention
1 through a client.
2 MR. DOWNEY: When did Mr. Kent make this allegation about Blue Star?
3 MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know exactly. It didn't come to our attention until sometime in June, and it came about because a client was doing due diligence on our firm. And they were interviewing a number of people, and Mr. Kent made this false allegation. And it was brought to our attention.
4 MR. DOWNEY: Who did Mr. Kent make these allegations to?
5 MS. TRAMONTANO: It was the firm--it was a firm that a client of ours had hired to do their due diligence. I don't--I don't know the name of the firm.
6 MR. DOWNEY: Did this meeting with Mr. Blinken occur?
7 MS. TRAMONTANO: It did not.
8 MR. DOWNEY: Why didn't it?
9 MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't--I don't recall why it didn't occur. I don't know if it was scheduling or--I don't know why it didn't occur.
10 MR. DOWNEY: Did you or Sally have a phone call with Mr. Blinken on this topic?
11 MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.
12 MR. DOWNEY: Just a second.
13 MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure.
14 [Pause.]
MR. DOWNEY: Did you discuss this topic of George Kent's allegations with any other U.S. official?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We discussed it directly with George Kent. We discussed it with Ambassador Fried and with Ambassador Yovanovitch.

MR. DOWNEY: What did you know about George Kent at this time period in June of 2016?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I knew absolutely nothing about George Kent.

MR. DOWNEY: So the first--

MS. TRAMONTANO: I never--

MR. DOWNEY: The first interaction you had with him was these allegations he was making about Blue Star?

MS. TRAMONTANO: That's correct.

MR. DOWNEY: Okay. We're going to go to Tab 26, Will, which will be Exhibit--I believe it's Exhibit 15. Will, could you scroll down? Thank you.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 15 marked for identification.]

MR. DOWNEY: So on September 8th, 2016, Ms. Painter emailed Dan Fried and wrote quick update, Masha called Karen back, and they had a very good conversation. Who is Masha?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I believe that is reference to Ambassador Yovanovitch.

MR. DOWNEY: Did you have a conversation with Ms.
Yovanovitch?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did.

MR. DOWNEY: And what did you discuss with Ms. Yovanovitch?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I discussed George Kent and his false allegations about the firm and that we are represented Andriy Klyuyev.

MR. DOWNEY: Why did Ms. Painter update Mr. Fried about the phone call between you and Ambassador Yovanovitch.

MS. TRAMONTANO: As I recall, we had reached out to Ambassador Fried to ask his advice. I can't recall whether it was a phone conversation or an in-person meeting. I believe it may have been an in-person meeting, and so--and we explained to him that we were quite upset that Mr. Kent, when we talked to him, he said he would not stop making the allegation, that he was will within his right to say what he was saying. And so we were pretty upset about it. You know, it continued for several months, and we had reached
out to Ambassador Fried, as I said. And so Sally was—Sally
Painter was following up with him to tell him that I had a
conversation with the ambassador.

MR. DOWNEY: In September of 2016, was Ambassador Fried
an official at the—a current official at the State
Department?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I believe he was.

MR. DOWNEY: Did you or any other Blue Star employees
have contact with other government officials at the State
Department around this time period?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You mean generally speaking?

MR. DOWNEY: Between you and Mr. Painter.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, we had a—I mean, we have an
international consulting firm. So we talk to State
Department officials all the time. In specific reference to
what? To this particular—

MR. DOWNEY: To this—to this allegations, to the
allegations George Kent was putting forth about Blue Star.

MS. TRAMONTANO: It was about Blue Star. This had
nothing to do with Burisma.

MR. DOWNEY: Yeah, it's Blue Star.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah.

The best of my recollection is that Sally had a
conversation with Mr. Kent that didn't go well. I had a
conversation with Mr. Kent that went very badly.
We then—I don't—I don't honestly know the sequencing, but I know we reached out to Ambassador Fried, and as I said, we either had a conversation with him or an in-person meeting with him, and then I had a phone conversation with Ambassador Yovanovitch about Mr. Kent.

I don't believe that we talked to or reached out to any current U.S. officials.

MR. DOWNEY: Okay. So what did Mr. Blinken think about this whole situation?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I never talked—I never talked to Mr. Blinken. We never—we never connected on it.

MR. DOWNEY: Did Ms. Painter?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, she did not.

MR. DOWNEY: Okay. We're going to go to—I think this is Exhibit 16, Tab 32A.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 16 marked for identification.]

[Pause.]

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. DOWNEY: So according to this September 26th, 2016, email from Sally Painter to Vadym, she had a call with Susan Fritz at USAID and Ms. Fritz's deputy, Joel Sandefur. Did you join this phone call?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. DOWNEY: Do you know who—did Ms. Painter discuss
with you what occurred on this phone call with USAID?

MS. TRAMONTANO: She did not.

MR. DOWNEY: In Ms. Painter's email she wrote that Burisma has worked with Steve Gonyea on the Municipal Energy Reform Project, or MERP. What is MERP?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know.

MR. DOWNEY: Do you know if Burisma had involvement with the MERP?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I'm reading the same document you are. That's all I know.

MR. DOWNEY: So this is--Ms. Painter might know more about this than you.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah. I wasn't involved in the meeting.

MR. DOWNEY: Understood. We're going to go to Tab 34C, which will be Exhibit 17, Will.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 17 marked for identification.]

MR. DOWNEY: So this is another email regarding Burisma and USAID. According to this October 31, 2016, email chain, it appears that Burisma met with USAID representatives. Did anyone from Blue Star attend this meeting between Burisma and USAID?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. I believe it was in Kiev.

MR. DOWNEY: Did this meeting occur?
MS. TRAMONTANO: From the email it appears it did occur. It said, "I had a brief, 30-minute meeting with USAID," so-

MR. DOWNEY: Do you know what was discussed at this meeting between Burisma and USAID?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I only know what's in this email.

MR. DOWNEY: Do you know if USAID--do you know what USAID's perspective of Burisma was in October of 2016?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not. I mean, they met with them but I don't know what their perspective was.

MR. DOWNEY: We're going to go to Exhibit 18, which will be Tab 36E.

MR. DOWNEY: On November 18, 2016, you emailed Ambassador Yovanovitch requesting a meeting in early December 2016. In your cover letter to the Committee you noted that you met with the ambassador on December 8, 2016. Why did you want to meet with Ambassador Yovanovitch in December of 2016?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, we did--you know, we had several clients in Ukraine. I knew the ambassador from previous--her previous roles, and, you know, we typically, when we were working in country would request a meeting with the ambassador.
MR. DOWNEY: So how well did you know Ambassador Yovanovitch?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I knew her as a professional acquaintance.

MR. DOWNEY: How many times before this December 2016 meeting had you met with Ambassador Yovanovitch?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, I talked to her as reflected in the document that you put up on the screen, sometime in September. Before that, you know, I probably, you know, saw her, you know, one or two times, maybe talked to her, you know, more often, one or two times.

MR. DOWNEY: So going back to the December 2016 meeting, at this point what was your understanding of Ambassador Yovanovitch's awareness of Blue Star representing Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I had no understanding of her awareness.

MR. DOWNEY: Did you or other Blue Star representatives disclose the fact that Blue Star represented Burisma to the ambassador's office?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did when I met with her.

MR. DOWNEY: Do you know why Ambassador Yovanovitch agreed to meet with Blue Star?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You'll have to ask her.

MR. DOWNEY: Did this meeting occur in December of
MS. TRAMONTANO: It did.

MR. DOWNEY: And who attended the meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I was in the meeting. I don't recall whether there was somebody from her office in the meeting. Yeah, I know I was in the meeting. I don't have a recollection if there was anybody else in the meeting.

MR. DOWNEY: Did George Kent attend the meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. Not based on my recollection, because I don't think I've ever met George Kent.

MR. DOWNEY: How long did the meeting last?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Oh, I don't know. Probably 15, 20 minutes. I don't recall it as an extensive meeting.

MR. DOWNEY: What was discussed at this meeting?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I think I talked about the clients that we were working with in country, you know, including Burisma. And, you know, I recall, you know, giving her an update on the Burisma--the cases that had been pending with Burisma. I don't recall whether it was--I don't recall any specifics, but I do recall, you know, giving her an update of what those conversations were.

MR. DOWNEY: And what was that update, on the cases against Burisma that you provided to Ms. Yovanovitch?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, you know, I had met with Mr. Lutsenko on two occasions, and there was an agreed-upon
process that the Prosecutor General was, you know, going to implement with regard to several of the cases.

MR. DOWNEY: What was that process?

MS. TRAMONTANO: One of the things that the Prosecutor General asked was whether Burisma would agree to an independent audit of its finances, because one of the pending cases against the company involved taxes, and Burisma agreed to that, and an audit was being conducted. And Burisma agreed to abide by whatever the results of the audit was.

MR. DOWNEY: Who did this independent audit?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know. You know, it was an auditor that the general prosecutor selected. I have no idea who it was.

MR. DOWNEY: When did this independent auditor begin its work?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know exactly when the work began. My recollection is it was in the fall of 2016.

MR. DOWNEY: And what was the results of the independent auditor's work?

MS. TRAMONTANO: That Burisma owed taxes, and they agreed to abide by the audit and pay whatever the audit results indicated.

MR. DOWNEY: How much did Burisma owe in taxes?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't remember. You know,
there's press reports that state what it was. But I don't recall right now what the amount was.

MR. DOWNEY: So is this independent audit work, is this what you provided to Ambassador Yovanovitch in December of 2016?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I didn't provide anything to her. You know, I generally gave her an update and, you know, spoke briefly about, you know, the process that the Prosecutor General requested and Burisma agreed to.

MR. DOWNEY: Why did--

MS. TRAMONTANO: It wasn't a long conversation, as I recall.

MR. DOWNEY: --why did Ambassador Yovanovitch need an update on Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no idea whether she needed an update on Burisma. I was informing her of working in Ukraine. Burisma was among one of our clients in country, and that was it.

MR. DOWNEY: Regarding the independent auditor, what violations were found in relation to Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no ideas what the findings of the independent auditor were. I was not privy to that report.

MR. DOWNEY: When did results of that independent auditor's report become public?
MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know if the results of the report became public or if Lutsenko just made a public statement as to the taxes that were owed and paid.

MR. DOWNEY: So do you know if a document was made publicly available of this independent auditor's findings in relation to Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have no knowledge of that.

MR. DOWNEY: When did you first meet Andrii Telizhenko?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I think I've already answered that question. I'm happy to answer it again. I met Andrii Telizhenko at a meeting that Sally and I had in March at the Ukrainian Embassy.

MR. DOWNEY: March of 2016?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, that's correct.

MR. DOWNEY: And at that time, what was Mr. Telizhenko's relationship with Blue Star Strategies?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He had no relationship with Blue Star Strategies.

MR. DOWNEY: Why did Blue Star contract with Mr. Telizhenko?

MS. TRAMONTANO: We had several clients that were not domiciled in Ukraine, and we needed to get letters to different ministries. We needed, you know, somebody to follow the Ukrainian news. And at the time we didn't have anybody to perform those administrative tasks. And in July
1 of 2016, after he left the Embassy, we contracted with him 
2 to help us do those--perform those tasks.
3 MR. DOWNEY: Did Blue Star receive any recommendations 
4 on Mr. Telizhenko's behalf before deciding to contract with 
5 him?
6 MS. TRAMONTANO: We may have talked to the DCM. I 
7 don't recall at this time.
8 MR. DOWNEY: Oksana Shulyar?
9 MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, we may have spoken with her. I 
10 just--I don't remember at this time.
11 MR. DOWNEY: You've described some of this, but what 
12 was Mr. Telizhenko's responsibilities as a contractor for 
13 Blue Star Strategies?
14 MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, it was, you know, to get 
15 documents to the key ministries that we needed to 
16 communicate with, or, you know, to help to schedule 
17 meetings. And he was to also follow the press and, you 
18 know, Ukrainian press, and provide, you know, translation. 
19 That frankly didn't work out very well, because it's--you 
20 know, his ability to translate into English wasn't--it 
21 wasn't a smooth--you know, it wasn't a smooth translation. 
22 But, you know, the other administrative tasks, delivering 
23 letters and identifying, you know, to whom to send, you 
24 know, the email, those were essentially, you know, the tasks 
25 that we asked him to perform.
MR. DOWNEY: Did Mr. Telizhenko have a good grasp on how the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington and Ukrainian politics were in country?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I would not say he had a good grasp, no.

MR. DOWNEY: And why not?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I think he had--

MR. KADZIK: You can't speculate on why he didn't.

MR. DOWNEY: You figured out Mr. Telizhenko didn't have a good grasp of Ukrainian politics after you ended the contractual agreement with him, or during it?

MS. TRAMONTANO: During it.

MR. DOWNEY: Where did Mr. Telizhenko perform his work for Blue Star?

MS. TRAMONTANO: In Kiev, most of the time.

MR. DOWNEY: Did Blue Star provide Mr. Telizhenko with any computer equipment, phone, company email address?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. None of the above.

MR. DOWNEY: How did you communicate with Mr. Telizhenko?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Either via his email or telephone.

MR. DOWNEY: How did Ms. Painter communicate with Mr. Telizhenko?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Oh, I mean, I believe the same way.

MR. DOWNEY: Who was Mr. Telizhenko's supervisor or
main point of contact at Blue Star during his contracted work?

MS. TRAMONTANO: He wasn't an employee so he didn't have a supervisor. He would be in contact with me. He would be in contact with Ms. Painter. And, you know, from time to time our employees, at our direction, may reach out to him for, you know, information or to perform a task.

MR. DOWNEY: Did Mr. Telizhenko's contract with Blue Star overlap with Blue Star's work for Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: It did, but he did not perform any work for Burisma.

MR. DOWNEY: Did Mr. Telizhenko ever mention or discuss Burisma's corruption problems with you or Sally Painter?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall having discussions with Mr. Telizhenko in that regard.

MR. DOWNEY: How often did you ask Mr. Telizhenko for assistance on items relating to Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: As we submitted to the Committee, there was one time where, I believe it was February or March of 2017, where I asked Mr. Telizhenko if he had knowledge about a specific NGO and the leadership of the NGO.

MR. DOWNEY: After ending the contract with Mr. Telizhenko, have you remained in contact with him?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I mean, we remained in contact, I would say, you know, from time to time. When he came to
Washington he would, you know, let us know. But I haven't talked to him in quite some time, I would say.

MR. DOWNEY: What about Ms. Painter?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I would think it's the same.

MR. DOWNEY: So how did you remain in contact with Mr. Telizhenko? You said he visited Washington a few times. Did you communicate via email, text message, messaging apps?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't--I mean, a normal way of communicating with him was through his Gmail account, so I would imagine that, but I don't specifically recall.

MR. DOWNEY: Did you ever ask Mr. Telizhenko to remove Blue Star from his resume?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No.

MR. DOWNEY: Do you know if Ms. Painter requested Mr. Telizhenko to remove Blue Star from his resume?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know. I don't think so. I don't know the--

MR. DOWNEY: Do you know if Ms. Painter communicated more with Mr. Telizhenko than you did?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't even know how to answer that question. I'm sorry. You know--

MR. DOWNEY: Just a second. Thank you.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure.

[Pause.]

MR. DOWNEY: Okay. So it's 3:59. Our hour is up.
1 Zack, I don't know if you have further questions of Ms. 
2 Tramontano.
3 MR. SCHRAM: I can be brief.
4 MR. DOWNEY: Okay. We will kick it over to you. Thank 
5 you.
6 MR. SCHRAM: Ms. Tramontano, did Blue Star ever meet 
7 with Prosecutor General Shokin?
8 MS. TRAMONTANO: No, we did not.
9 MR. SCHRAM: You stated that during Shokin's tenure the 
10 cases against Burisma were pending without action. Is that 
11 correct?
12 MS. TRAMONTANO: That is correct.
13 MR. SCHRAM: Did Blue Star ever advocate to any U.S. 
14 Government official for the removal of Viktor Shokin?
15 MS. TRAMONTANO: We did not.
16 MR. SCHRAM: Nothing else. I should offer my finance 
17 colleagues, Dan and David, an opportunity to ask questions 
18 if they'd like.
19 MR. BERICK: I don't have any.
20 MR. DOWNEY: Okay. We have a couple more lines of 
21 questioning. Mr. Kadzik, I thought we were going to about 
22 4:30 today, if that's okay with everyone.
23 MR. KADZIK: We can go to 4:30 today, but I would say 
24 that 4:30 today is it.
25 MR. DOWNEY: Well, as Mr. Folio said, we'll discuss
MR. KADZIK: Well, let me just put it this way. If we were in a court of law, I could have said "asked and answered" a thousand times to your questions. And if you want to eat up your time that way, that's your business, but we're not carrying on as a consequence.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, we'll discuss that after this is over. Thank you.

We're going to go to Tab 38, Will. This will be Exhibit 19.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 19 marked for identification.]

MR. DOWNEY: So as we're scrolling through this exhibit, it begins on November 30, 2016 with Blue Star requesting a meeting with Mr. Reggie Singh of the State Department to discuss Burisma. In the meeting request, Pero of Blue Star wrote, "For your background, the board of directors of Burisma consists of U.S. nationals, and the company uses U.S. technology for its operations."

Ms. Tramontano, why was it important for Blue Star to highlight the fact that Burisma's board consists of U.S. nationals when trying to obtain a meeting with the State Department?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Well, as you can see from the emails, the meeting was already obtained, but we always alert the
1 State Department when a foreign company that we're
2 representing has U.S. nationals or U.S. content or purchases
3 equipment in the U.S. or has a supply chain in the U.S.
4 It's typically relevant information to the State Department.
5 MR. DOWNEY: So who was the U.S. nationals on the board
6 of Burisma in November of 2016?
7 MS. TRAMONTANO: So in November of 2016 it would have
8 been Devon Archer and Hunter Biden. I don't know whether
9 Cofer Black was on the board at that time.
10 MR. DOWNEY: So this meeting did occur with the State
11 Department?
12 MS. TRAMONTANO: It did.
13 MR. DOWNEY: Did you attend?
14 MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah, I believe I did attend.
15 MR. DOWNEY: What was discussed in this meeting?
16 MS. TRAMONTANO: Vadym talked about the company and
17 talked about Burisma's role in energy security. I mean, as
18 you will recall, at this time there was a Russian invasion.
19 Most of the issues for Ukraine were around the conflict as
20 well as energy security. And so Burisma, you know, was a
21 part of providing energy security to Ukraine, and so that's
22 what Vadym was briefing on.
23 MR. DOWNEY: Understood. Can you describe Blue Star's
24 relationship with the Atlantic Council?
25 MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure. We have, I guess, you know,
1 somewhat long-term relationship with the Atlantic Council.
2 The co-founder of the firm, Sally Painter, was an advisor to
3 the Atlantic Council. She's been deeply involved in
4 transatlantic relations. She was a member of the U.S.
5 Committee on NATO, along with Steve Hadley and Madeleine
6 Albright and others. We've served on panels for the
7 Atlantic Council. You know, we've had different engagements
8 with the Atlantic Council and some of our clients. I served
9 on the board of the Atlantic Council. Sally served on the
10 board of the Atlantic Council. I don't know if you have any
11 specific questions, but generally that--
12 MR. DOWNEY: No, no. That's helpful to understand.
13 Thank you.
14 We're going to go to, I think this is Exhibit 20, and
15 it's going to be 44M.
16 [Tramontano Exhibit No. 20
17 marked for identification.]
18 MR. DOWNEY: So on January 16, 2018, Pero at Blue Star
19 sent Vadym an invitation for an event from the Atlantic
20 Council to Mr. Zlochevsky.
21 MS. TRAMONTANO: Mm-hmm.
22 MR. DOWNEY: Pero noted that the invitation is for visa
23 application purposes. Do you know what Pero meant by this?
24 MS. TRAMONTANO: I believe the Atlantic Council had
25 offered to, if I'm remembering this correctly, had offered
to have the board of directors to the Atlantic Council for either one of their events or a briefing, and for, you know, some of the board members to travel they would need to apply for a visa.

MR. DOWNEY: Did Blue Star or the Atlantic Council assist Mr. Zlochevsky in obtaining a visa?

MS. TRAMONTANO: The event never happened. I don't think he applied for a visa at this time.

MR. DOWNEY: Understood. I'm going to turn this to a colleague, Mr. Wittmann. Thank you.

MR. WITTMANN: Hi, Ms. Tramontano. Can you hear me?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I can.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. We're going to enter into the record Exhibit 21. Tab 41, Will.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 21 marked for identification.]

MR. WITTMANN: And we just want to scroll down to the bottom of the first page, so you can see the email that you sent on February 27, 2017, and we can keep scrolling--do you see that, Ms. Tramontano?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah. I don't see the email, though.

I see the chain, but--

MR. WITTMANN: Sure. We'll keep scrolling down so you can see the rest of that email.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.
MR. WITTMANN: So this is on February 27, 2017, you sent an email regarding Vadym's schedule for an upcoming trip to the United States. In that email you mentioned that Vadym was scheduled to meet with Hunter Biden at 11 a.m. on March 9, 2017. And we discussed--you mentioned this earlier, so I just wanted to bring up the document that referenced that as well. We also have the briefing book that shows the meeting. I'm happy to bring that up on the screen as well, Ms. Tramontano. If you would like to see that just let me know.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Sure. Yeah, please do.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay, sure. We'll go to Tab, what we'll enter in as Exhibit 22. Tab 42, please, Will. Page 915, please.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 22 marked for identification.]

MR. WITTMANN: And just stop right there. Do you see where it says Thursday, March 9th, Ms. Tramontano?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, I do.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know if this meeting between Vadym and Hunter Biden occurred?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not recall.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Was this the meeting you had previously referenced earlier today, the second meeting between Vadym and Hunter Biden?
MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah. I mean, what I said is that in the documents that we submitted, you know, that there may have been one or, you know, two other occasions. And that was in response to a question that maybe you had, Mr. Wittmann, about were there other meetings. I just don't recall right now whether that meeting took place or not.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I want to turn to our next exhibit. We're going to enter it in to the record as Exhibit 23. This is Tab 46L, Will.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 23 marked for identification.]

MR. WITTMANN: And please let us know, Ms. Tramontano, when you can see it on your screen, and just let us know if you'd like us to scroll down.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yep, it's up on the screen. Yeah, please do.

[Pause.]

MS. TRAMONTANO: Okay.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. So let's go ahead, and please scroll all the way back up, Will.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Thank you.

MR. WITTMANN: On July 27, 2019, you received this email. It appears--is that email address Vadym's email?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, that's Vadym's email, yes.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Containing what appears to be
news clips regarding President Trump's call with President Zelensky, and some of these clips mention Burisma. You responded, "Thank you, Vadym. I have brief Sally. She will reach out to our friend. I've talked to our other friend this morning."

What did you brief Sally on?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I read the links that he sent. You know, this was the first—as I recall, this was the first news about a phone conversation that obviously later became the subject of some inquiry. And I had read the links, and I talked to Sally about it. I mean, we were unaware that there was a phone conversation.

MR. WITTMANN: Understood. Understood. In this email you wrote that "Sally will reach out to our friend." Who did Sally reach out to, or rather, did Sally reach out to anybody?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't know if she did. And, you know, I honestly don't know, you know, with certainty who the friend references are.

MR. WITTMANN: References as in the friend that Sally was going to reach out to?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. The friend that I was going to reach out to.

MR. WITTMANN: I'm sorry, Ms. Tramontano. The line was breaking up just a little bit. Do you mind repeating that,
1 please?
2 MS. TRAMONTANO: Yeah. I said I don't—I do not recall
3 who the reference—the reference to "friend" in this email,
4 I don't recall who that would have been.
5 MR. WITTMANN: Do you recall—did you talk to anyone
6 outside of Sally about the information that you read in
7 these clips, around this time period?
8 MS. TRAMONTANO: I don't recall talking to anyone. I
9 mean, what I do recall was that the news was moving quite
10 quickly on this topic, and changing, you know, in terms of
11 details and about the conversations. So I don't recall
12 talking to anybody at this time. Actually, I've tried to
13 recollect that but I really don't recall.
14 MR. WITTMANN: I'm going to turn now back to Exhibit
15 10, that we entered into the record earlier. This is Tab
16 17, Will. And, Ms. Tramontano, my question relates to the
17 email at the very top. And Will, if you wouldn't mind just
18 scrolling down a little bit, and stop right there.
19 In that last sentence of this—is this email on your
20 screen?
21 MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, it is.
22 MR. WITTMANN: Okay. In the last sentence of Mr.
23 Telizhenko's email he writes that he would recommend to have
24 an unofficial meeting with former Prosecutor General, Mr.
25 Yarema. Are you familiar with Mr. Yarema, or were you
familiar with Mr. Yarema at the time of this email?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know why Mr. Telizhenko recommended that you take an unofficial meeting with Mr. Yarema?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did any Burisma representative ever mention Mr. Yarema to you?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you meet with Mr. Yarema?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you ever follow up with Mr. Telizhenko about why he made this recommendation?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not that I recall.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay.

We're going to enter into the record Exhibit No. 24. Tab 6, please, Will.

[Tramontano Exhibit No. 24 marked for identification.]

MR. WITTMANN: It's a calendar entry, Ms. Tramontano.

Please let us know when you can see it on your screen.

MS. TRAMONTANO: I have it on my screen. Thank you.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Thank you. This is an entry in Ms. Painter's calendar for March 8, 2016, and we can scroll up a little bit so you can see the date. And at some time
before 8 a.m. it looks like Ms. Painter was scheduled to call Devon on court case. Do you know what this is in reference to?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I do not.

MR. WITTMANN: Did Ms. Painter ever mention a court case relating to a discussion with Devon around this time period?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Not that I recall.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know if Devon, the Devon mentioned in this entry, is Devon Archer?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I mean, I don't know for sure.

MR. WITTMANN: Did you ever discuss any specific court cases with Mr. Archer?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No, I did not.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know if Ms. Painter did?

MS. TRAMONTANO: I should say I'm assuming you're asking, so I should not have made this assumption, so I guess I should ask you to make sure we have a meeting of the minds on this question. If you are asking me whether I discussed with Devon any of the court cases that were pending in Ukraine against Burisma, the answer to that question is no. So if that's the question you're asking, then no, I did not discuss those pending court cases, Burisma's pending court cases with Devon.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Were there other court cases
besides those, that you would have discussed with him?

MS. TRAMONTANO: At this time I believe there was a court case that involved Norvik Bank, and that could be the court case referenced. And I did talk to him about a court case with regard to Norvik Bank. So I just want to answer the question, have I talked to Devon about any court case, and at this time I did talk to him about a court case with regard to Norvik Bank.

MR. WITTMANN: Was Norvik Bank ever a client of Blue Star's?

MS. TRAMONTANO: Yes, it was. It became a client, yes.

MR. WITTMANN: And when did they become a client?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't know. It's not something I can pull up right now.

MR. WITTMANN: Do you know if it was like March 8, 2016 they were a client?

MS. TRAMONTANO: You know, I don't know.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. Was Blue Star ever asked to help convince Hunter Biden to end his relationship with Burisma?

MS. TRAMONTANO: No. We were never asked that.

MR. WITTMANN: Okay. I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Downey.

MR. DOWNEY: So it's 4:25. I believe Chairman Johnson and Chairman Grassley's line of questioning is complete, knowing the 4:30 stop time. I don't know if Senator Peters'
or Senator Wyden's office has anything else before the 4:30 stop time.

MR. SCHRAM: Just one more question. Did Devon Archer or Hunter Biden, in their capacity as Burisma board members, direct any of Blue Star's activities?

MS. TRAMONTANO: They did not.

MR. SCHRAM: That's all.

MR. DOWNEY: Okay. Ms. Tramontano, we thank you for your time today, and hope everything is healthy and safe wherever you are, along with you, Mr. Kadzik. We'll be in touch.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Thank you very much.

MR. KADZIK: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. DOWNEY: Bye.

MS. TRAMONTANO: Bye-bye.

[Whereupon, at 4:25 p.m., the interview was concluded.]
CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT

This Consulting Services Agreement (the “Agreement”) is between Burisma Holdings Ltd. (the “Client”), an independent oil and gas company, with principal place of business at Archiepiskopou Makariou III, 155 PROTEAS HOUSE, 5th floor, 3026, Limassol Cyprus, and Blue Star Strategies, LLC (the “Firm”), a limited liability company with its principal place of business at 888 17th Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20006, USA. For purposes of this Agreement, the Client and the Firm are referred to singularly as “the Party” or collectively as “the Parties”. The Parties hereby agree to the following terms and conditions:

AGREEMENT

1. SERVICES

Under the terms of this Agreement, the Firm agrees to provide to the Client independent professional consulting services (“Services”) as follows:

- Provide government relations assistance to the Client in the U.S. and Ukraine;
- Communicate to officials about the Client’s business and its economic importance to Ukraine; and
- Prepare brief written reports as requested by the Client.

2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE FIRM

A. The Firm shall perform its responsibilities under this Agreement in an ethical and business-like manner and as per requirements and/or guidance of the Client and in its best interests.

B. The Firm shall submit all reports required of it by applicable federal and state disclosure and/or reporting laws.

3. OBLIGATIONS OF CLIENT

A. Assisting with Government Disclosures by the Firm: Where applicable, the Client recognizes that the Firm may periodically be required to file federal and disclosure forms in the U.S. which may require the Client’s signature.
B. **Non-payment**: The Client acknowledges that any failure to timely remit payments due under this Agreement constitutes a material breach hereof.

4. **COMPENSATION**

A. **Monthly Retainer Fee**: The Client agrees to pay the Firm a Monthly Retainer Fee of US$30,000 (thirty thousand U.S. dollars), exclusive of all expenses. The Monthly Retainer Fee is exclusive of value-added tax (VAT) and out-of-pocket business expenses. Any expenses exceeding US$500 (five hundred U.S. dollars) shall be pre-approved by the Client in advance of being incurred.

B. **Payment Schedule**: Payment of the Monthly Fee is due upon receipt of the Firm's invoice. The first invoice shall include the first two months of the Monthly Retainer Fee, in the amount of US$60,000 (sixty thousand U.S. dollars). Should the Client allow its account to fall more than thirty (30) days in arrears, the Firm retains the option of suspending its Services and those of subcontractors called for in this Agreement until payment arrangements are made to the reasonable satisfaction of the Firm.

C. **Payment by Check**: If the Client chooses to remit payment in the form of a check, please make payable to:

Blue Star Strategies, LLC  
888 17th Street NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20006, USA  
Attn: Sally Painter

D. **Payment by Wire**: If the Client chooses to remit payment by wire transfer:

- Receiving Bank: Sun Trust Bank  
- Receiving Bank Swift: SNTRUS3A  
- Beneficiary Bank: ABA#061000104

Account Name: Blue Star Strategies, LLC
Account Number: #1000168741998

E. **Invoices**: The Firm agrees to send all invoices to the Client. Such invoice must be original and will contain a detailed statement (report) of the work and tasks performed by the Firm hereunder, as well as receipts and/or other appropriate documents for all items for which the Firm requests reimbursement. The Client shall pay for appropriately documented and approved fees within thirty (30) days of receipt. Invoices should be mailed to:

Burisma Holdings Ltd.  
10-A Ryleyeva St., Office 424
5. ASSIGNMENT

The Firm shall not assign this Agreement or any of its rights or obligations hereunder without the express prior written approval of the Client. This Agreement shall bind and inure to the benefit of the Parties, and their respective successors and assigns permitted, as provided in this section.

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

The Firm and the Client agree that they will hold in confidence and will not utilize in any manner the content of this Agreement and any information whatsoever of a restricted or confidential nature concerning the activities or business of the other, unless such disclosure: (a) is mutually agreed upon in writing; (b) is reasonably required in connection with the fulfillment of the disclosing party’s obligations hereunder, and then is made only to the minimum extent necessary to carry out such obligations; (c) pertains to information which had generally become known to the public other than through the disclosure thereof by the disclosing party; (d) is made to attorneys, accountants or other professional advisors of the disclosing party under confidentiality agreements substantially similar to this one; or (e) pursuant to compulsory legal process, provided that the disclosing party has opportunity to seek a protective or similar order and only the minimum information is disclosed to comply with such legal process. “Confidential information” means any (a) information designated by the other party in writing as confidential, proprietary or restricted, and (b) any information of which the receiving party knows or should reasonably know that (i) the disclosing party treats as confidential or proprietary, or (ii) public disclosure can or will negatively affect the interests of the other party. The terms of this Section 6 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

7. WORK PRODUCT

Any and all Work Product developed or generated under this Agreement per Section 1 herein shall be owned by the Client unless otherwise agreed with the Firm.

8. NOTICES

All notices required or authorized by this Agreement shall be given in writing and shall contain a reference to this Agreement. All such notices shall be deemed effective when they are either served by personal delivery, or sent, postage pre-paid, by registered or certified mail to the receiving Party at the following address:
9. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

The Firm and the Client agree to make every effort to resolve amicably by direct informal negotiations any disagreement or dispute arising between them under or in connection with this Agreement. Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, which cannot be settled amicably within sixty (60) days, shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association as presently in force. The place of arbitration shall be agreed by the parties in writing within ten (10) days from the above-mentioned 60 day period, or if no agreement is reached, shall be determined by the arbitral tribunal, having regard to the circumstances of the arbitration. The language to be used in the arbitral proceedings shall be English. The Parties hereto agree to be bound by any arbitration award rendered in accordance with this provision as the final adjudication of any dispute arising under this Agreement.

10. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Nothing in this Agreement or relating thereto shall be construed as constituting a waiver of the privileges and immunities of the Parties.

11. AMENDMENTS

This Agreement may only be amended in writing signed by the Client and an executive officer of the Firm, explicitly stating that the writing is intended to amend this Agreement.

12. DURATION AND TERMINATION

A. Term and Renewal: This Agreement shall commence on November 1, 2015 ("the Start Date") and continue until October 31, 2016 ("Initial Term").
Agreement shall automatically renew and continue on a six month basis until renewed or terminated by either Party pursuant to the terms herein.

B. Either Party may terminate this Agreement for cause upon the other Party’s breach or default of any provision of this Agreement unless such breach or default is corrected or cured within thirty (30) days after receipt of written notice thereof from the other Party.

C. Either Party may terminate this Agreement for cause immediately, in the event that the other Party: (i) is the subject of a voluntary or involuntary petition in bankruptcy; (ii) is or becomes insolvent; or (iii) ceases to pay its obligations or conduct business in the normal course.

D. Following the expiration of the Initial Term, the Client may terminate the Agreement upon the provision, in writing, of no fewer than sixty (60) days’ notice. Termination pursuant to this paragraph does not release Client or the Firm from any ongoing disclosure or reporting requirements either might have under this Agreement or any amendments hereto or of any obligation of the Client to provide compensation for any and all Services provided on behalf of the Client, which shall be pro-rated for any partial month.

13. WAIVER

The failure of either Party to enforce at any time or for any period of time any provision hereof shall not be construed to be a waiver of such provision of the right thereafter to enforce each and every provision. No waiver by either Party to this Agreement, either express or implied, of any breach of any term, condition or obligation of this Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach of that term, condition or obligation or of any other term, condition or obligation of this Agreement.

14. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES

The Firm is an independent contractor. All persons employed by the Firm in the performance of the Agreement shall perform under the control and direction of the Firm and shall under no circumstances be considered employees of the Client.
We, the undersigned, hereby agree that these terms and conditions constitute the entire Agreement governing the business relationship between the Burisma Holdings Ltd. and Blue Star Strategies, LLC for the purpose of delivery of the Services agreed above, which is made effective as from the Start Date above.

Burisma Holdings Ltd.

By: Vadym Pozharskyi
Advisor to the Board

Date: 17/11/2015

Blue Star Strategies, LLC

By: Sally Painter
Chief Operating Officer

Date: NOV. 18, 2015
Dear Chairman Johnson & Chairman Grassley:

I have received your letter dated December 3, 2019 requesting certain information from Blue Star Strategies, LLC (Blue Star Strategies).

Blue Star Strategies is a small, woman owned government and public affairs firm co-founded by Sally Painter and me.¹ This year marks Blue Star Strategies’ 10th Anniversary. Prior to founding Blue Star Strategies, Sally Painter and I were partners in a bi-partisan government affairs firm, Dutko Worldwide. Dutko Worldwide’s partners included Mark Irion, Ron Kaufman, Brad Card and Gary Andres – all well-known professionals in the government affairs sector. Sally Painter and I led the international business at Dutko Worldwide. In 2009, we decided to launch Blue Star Strategies.

Blue Star Strategies is unique in that the government and public affairs practice is exclusively international. We assist foreign entities (public and private) by providing an array of government and public affairs services. From time to time, those services include advocacy before government agencies, including the U.S. government. We also assist U.S. private, commercial enterprises in Europe, Eurasia and throughout Latin America.

As early as 2002, the founders of the firm began working with Eastern European countries and countries formerly within the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) to develop their strategic security plans to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). To achieve that end, we worked closely with the Bush Administration and other Members of the NATO Alliance and saw several countries – including Bulgaria, Latvia and Estonia – be accepted into NATO. In 2004, again in collaboration with the Bush Administration, we began our work in Ukraine – initially to see the fraudulent 2005 election overturned, and Viktor Yushchenko elected President of Ukraine.

I outline our history so that you would understand Blue Star Strategies’ track record of achieving positive results for governments and private enterprises from Eastern European and former USSR countries. Based

¹ A third individual, Gabriel Zinny was a minority shareholder at the time of the company’s founding. Mr. Zinny is no longer with the firm and was not at the firm during the firm’s work with Burisma.
on our success, we receive referrals from current and former clients, colleagues, and other professionals when they believe we have the expertise to provide the services required. Burisma is among several clients referred to our firm. Given the questions raised in your letter, I note that Hunter Biden did not refer Burisma to the firm. The firm continues to work in the private and public sectors in Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltics, the Balkans, and the Caucasus regions and throughout Latin America.

We were engaged by Burisma in November 2015 to provide a range of government, public affairs, and legal services. The U.S. component of our work has focused on fact-finding as outlined below, partnerships with private institutions, and discussions with appropriate government and non-governmental organizations regarding Ukraine’s energy security needs. In Ukraine, we provide legal advice and public affairs services. Burisma continues as a client of the firm.

Your letter asserts several claims referenced primarily to two media sources: the Washington Examiner and The Hill. It is important to inform the Committees that the assertions made, and the conclusions drawn from those assertions, are incorrect. While Sally Painter and I met Mr. Amos Hochstein, it was not “to convince Hochstein . . .that Burisma was on the level and did not warrant further investigation,” as stated in your letter. The initial meeting with Mr. Hochstein was to understand his and the State Department’s position regarding an independent energy company, Burisma. At that meeting we learned Mr. Hochstein’s view – although it was not stated to be the State Department’s view. There was a subsequent meeting with Mr. Hochstein that included Burisma’s U.S. counsel, John Buretta. While Sally Painter attended the meeting, the counsel led the briefing. The first meeting with Mr. Hochstein was on December 10, 2015. The second meeting was on March 24, 2016.

The second incorrect assertion is that I leveraged Hunter Biden’s name for a meeting with then Under Secretary of State Catherine Novelli. To substantiate that claim, your letter references a note written by someone presumably in the State Department. The note was not written by me. The fact is, I have known Catherine Novelli for over two decades and did not need to use anyone’s name – including Hunter Biden’s – to obtain a meeting. Ms. Novelli agreed to the meeting at my request. The purpose of the meeting was to understand the State Department’s position regarding Burisma, as well as how the State Department came to that position. The date of the meeting was March 1, 2016.2

Although not referenced in the Committees’ letter, as part of our fact-finding Sally Painter and I had meetings with State Department professionals3 in Washington, DC and at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv wherein Burisma was mentioned. During a trip to Kyiv, we requested a meeting with Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt to discuss several issues, one of which included understanding how he came to his

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2 John Buretta, Burisma’s U.S. Counsel attended the meeting and briefed Undersecretary Novelli.
3 Prior to meeting Ambassador Pyatt, we had two professional staff meetings at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. On December 14, 2015 we met William Laitinen, Economic Counselor at the Embassy, to understand his view of Ukraine’s economic situation. The meeting had not been scheduled to discuss Burisma as we had several other corporate clients interested in Ukraine’s economic situation. To be fully transparent, we disclosed that we were working with Burisma and inquired as to his views of the company. Also, on December 14, 2015 we met USAID Representative Steve Gonyea to understand USAID’s decision-making process. Burisma had offered to assist USAID during a gas shortage in regions under Russian attack and we were inquiring about the decision to decline the company’s assistance.
position about Burisma. A year later, we met Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch to discuss a variety of issues – Burisma was raised in our discussions. As it related to Burisma, the purpose of the meeting was to understand whether Ambassador Yovanovitch held the same view of Burisma as Ambassador Pyatt. The meeting with Ambassador Pyatt was on December 16, 2015. The meeting with Ambassador Yovanovitch was on December 8, 2016.

On December 14, 2016 we met Reggie Singh, Ukraine Desk Officer, to discuss economic and energy security in Ukraine and the role of independent gas companies such as Burisma. On November 2, 2017 we met Andrea Lockwood, Deputy Assistant Secretary of International Affairs at the Energy Department, to discuss the role independent gas companies such as Burisma could play to better ensure energy security in Ukraine.

Burisma purchases extraction and other equipment from several U.S. companies. The cost of this specialized equipment exceeds $80 million over 5 years. As a result of the Trump Administration’s focus on U.S. jobs, we met officials at the Departments of State and Commerce who were interested in foreign company purchases from U.S. manufacturers that resulted in job creation. At the State Department we met Melissa Simpson, then Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, and Brian DaRin. The State Department meeting was held on November 21, 2018. At the Department of Commerce, we met Matthew Edwards, Director, and Boris Chumuk, Desk Officer, of the Office of Russia, Ukraine & Eurasia to discuss Burisma’s U.S. equipment purchases. The Department of Commerce meeting was held on November 27, 2018. Among several recommendations from that meeting was to meet Charles Phillips, Deputy Senior Commercial Officer and Heather Bell, Director from the Department of Energy at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. The meeting with Mr. Phillips and Ms. Bell meeting took place on February 19, 2019.

We had no meetings related to Burisma at the Executive Office of the President or the Office of the Vice President during the Obama Administration.

In response to your request outlined in item #2 of your letter, we include an appendix (Appendix A) containing records between Blue Star and U.S. officials specifically related to Burisma. Due to the Confidentiality clause and the Client Work Product Ownership clause of the binding contract between Blue Star Strategies and Burisma, we are unable to provide copies of documents requested in item #1b of your letter.

During my meetings in Ukraine with Ukrainian officials, I was working in my capacity as “Of Counsel” to Burisma in collaboration with Burisma’s U.S. counsel, John Buretta. Due to the nature of those meetings, disclosure of the discussions would be a breach of client confidentiality and the attorney-client privilege.

4 Ambassador Pyatt had been sharply critical of Burisma in one of his official public speeches in his capacity as the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine.
5 Mr. Singh included colleagues from the State Department’s Economics office. We have no record of the attendees.
6 The records include records for meetings that occurred, and records for meetings requested that did not occur. We have indicated the dates of those meetings that did occur in the letter. Where the records refer to a discussion of issues unrelated to Burisma we have redacted the reference. Where the records specifically identify a Burisma representative we have redacted the name to adhere to the confidentiality clause in our agreement.
Finally, I want to assure the Committees’ Chairmen that at no time did I or anyone else in the firm working on behalf of Burisma collaborate or coordinate the development or implementation of our work with Hunter Biden. We had no discussions or meetings with Mr. Biden regarding our contractual agreement with Burisma or Blue Star Strategies’ terms of engagement. Mr. Biden played no role in Blue Star Strategies’ work on behalf of Burisma – either in its limited scope in the U.S. or its more extensive scope in Ukraine. Mr. Biden has no role in Blue Star Strategies and holds no financial interest in Blue Star Strategies.

The information provided in this letter is based on the firm’s best recollection and after a review of our records. Consistent with recommendations from the IRS we retain records, including client records, for a period of 5 years. We will continue to preserve records relevant to this inquiry.

I trust that this letter responds to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Karen Tramontano
Chief Executive Officer
Blue Star Strategies, LLC

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7 Earlier this year, Blue Star Strategies embarked on an office renovation that included major changes in our telecommunications and computer systems. While we are confident that the search of our records has resulted in producing records responsive to your inquiry major systems changes have their challenges.
Ok, will give you a buzz over the weekend. Have a good night!

I don't want to be in a position of knowing something that I can't share with the ambassador. :) Not a good career move.
Let's talk over the weekend. I'm going to sleep!

Steve Gonyea  Director/EG Office | USAID/Ukraine (From U.S. - 301.985.8659 ext 5494)

On Dec 11, 2015, at 23:30, Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com> wrote:

I totally understand – but I think we are changing strategies. I am not sure what their talking points are for the meeting but will leave it up to them on what they will talk about at the Embassy. I can confidentially brief you over the phone. Let me know when you have 5 minutes to talk.

IMHO, this would be a VERY bad move to not mention this. Burisma and linkages, good and bad, as you know, have been a major news story and hugely politicized issue, especially during the recent visit. It's been used in attempts to criticize US policy and embarrass the Ambassador. Honesty would be the best policy. Seriously.

Steve Gonyea  Director/EG Office | USAID/Ukraine (From U.S. - 301.985.8659 ext 5494)

On Dec 11, 2015, at 19:01, Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com> wrote:

Apparently the pool is nice 😊

Ok so I’ll tell them that you will meet them after Chip. BTW – Chip doesn’t know anything about our work with Burisma and they will probably not mentioning anything to him about it.
From: Stephen Gonyea [mailto:sgonyea@usaid.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 11:34 AM
To: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting next week

Yes at the embassy.

Well Premier is a nice Russian owned hotel. :)

---

On Dec 11, 2015, at 18:31, Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com> wrote:

Yes, meeting with Chip on Monday at 4 pm so after that will work. Is your office at the Embassy?

They are staying at Premier Palace Hotel

---

From: Stephen Gonyea [mailto:sgonyea@usaid.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 11:27 AM
To: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting next week

So your meeting with Chip is Monday? I may be called in on it too. If so then after that is fine. Maybe I can bring them back to the center. Have them a hotel yet?

Steve Gonyea Director/EG Office | USAID/Ukraine (From U.S.- 301.985.8659 ext 5494)

---

On Dec 11, 2015, at 18:18, Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com> wrote:

Monday. Sorry. Tuesday works too

---

From: Stephen Gonyea [mailto:sgonyea@usaid.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 11:17 AM
To: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting next week

Uh, on which day?

Steve Gonyea Director/EG Office | USAID/Ukraine (From U.S.- 301.985.8659 ext 5494)
Hi Steve,

What is a good time for you to meet Karen and Sally next week. They have a 4 pm meeting with Chip from the Embassy. Would sometime before or after that work with you?

I’ll send you a full list of their meetings later today.

Pero

Pero Jolevski
Blue Star Strategies

(+1)-202-833-1281
(+1)-202-822-9088 fax

pero.jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com

888 17th Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

www.bluestarstrategies.com

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Pero Jolevski

From: Karen Tramontano
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 8:00 AM
To: Pero Jolevski
Subject: Fwd: Need your advice

see below. please follow up with her office. thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Novelli, Catherine A" <NovelliCA@state.gov>
Date: February 18, 2016 at 7:48:00 AM EST
To: Karen Tramontano <Karen.Tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com>
Cc: "Dodman, Michael J" <DodmanMJ@state.gov>, "Thomas, Anita Y" <ThomasAY@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Need your advice

Hi Karen,

Happy to meet with you. Copying Anita Thinas who can make it happen on my schedule

Best,
Cathy

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 18, 2016, at 7:42 AM, Karen Tramontano <Karen.Tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com> wrote:

<image001.gif>

Dear Undersecretary Novelli:

I have requested a meeting to discuss a matter on which I need your advice. I spoke to Michael Tracton in your office yesterday to explain my reason for asking for a meeting. Essentially, the U.S. government has taken a position in a commercial matter regarding a Ukrainian individual and I believe the position is in error. I would like to give you a briefing and ask your advice in this matter. We are reaching out to your office and hopefully we could arrange a meeting in the upcoming week. Thank you in advance for your time.

Best regards

Karen
Karen A. Tramontano  
Blue Star Strategies  

(+1) 202-833-1265 direct  
(+1) 202-320-4102 mobile  
(+1) 202-822-9088 fax  

karen.tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com<http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=mailto:patrick.boland@bluestarstrategies.com>  

888 17th Street NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20006  


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From: Pero Jolevski
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 10:57 AM
To: Thomas, Anita Y; Karen Tramontano
Subject: RE: Meeting with Undersecretary Novelli

Thanks!

From: Thomas, Anita Y [mailto:ThomasAY@state.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 10:51 AM
To: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>; Karen Tramontano <Karen.Tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Undersecretary Novelli

Hi Pero,

Yes. We are confirmed for today at 4pm. Karen and Bill are both pre-cleared at 3:45pm.

Thanks for checking!

Best,
Anita

From: Pero Jolevski [mailto:Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 9:47 AM
To: Thomas, Anita Y; Karen Tramontano
Subject: RE: Meeting with Undersecretary Novelli

Good morning Anita,

Just wanted to reconfirm with you the meeting today at 4 pm, Karen and John will be in at State Department 10-15 minutes prior the meeting.

Best regards,
Pero

From: Thomas, Anita Y [http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=mailto:ThomasAY@state.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 3:25 PM
To: Karen Tramontano <Karen.Tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com>
Cc: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Undersecretary Novelli

Sure. I can have Amy Dove to contact you when she is out of her meeting. You can also call her direct on 202 647-4092. She will be available around 4:30pm.

Thanks,
Anita
From: Karen Tramontano  
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 3:13 PM  
To: Thomas, Anita Y  
Cc: Pero Jolevski  
Subject: Re: Meeting with Undersecretary Novelli

let's have a conversation with the staff person rather than engage e mails

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 18, 2016, at 3:09 PM, Thomas, Anita Y <ThomasAY@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Pero,

There is one thing I forgot to ask in my earlier email. In order to help better prepare for the meeting, can you please provide more details about the meeting? Mainly the name of the Ukraine official that Karen is speaking of in her earlier email to Cathy. I am happy to put you in touch with the Staffer covering this meeting.

Thanks,

Anita

---

From: Pero Jolevski  
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 12:48 PM  
To: Thomas, Anita Y  
Cc: Karen Tramontano  
Subject: RE: Meeting with Undersecretary Novelli

Thanks, Anita. March 1 at 4 pm works. Karen Tramontano and John Buretta will be attending the meeting. Do you need ID, DOB and SSN information for both?

Thank you

Pero

---

From: Thomas, Anita Y  
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 12:43 PM  
To: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>  
Cc: Karen Tramontano <Karen.Tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com>  
Subject: RE: Meeting with Undersecretary Novelli

Hi Pero,

Happy to find a time to meet with U/S Novelli. How about March 1 at 4:00pm? The calendar is pretty full both days, but can try to rearrange for another time if 4pm doesn't work.
Good morning Anita,

I work with Karen Tramontano at Blue Star Strategies and I am writing following Undersecretary’s email to schedule a meeting. We wanted to check if the Undersecretary is available on Friday, February 26th sometime after 1 pm? If not, perhaps February 29th or March 1st. Please let me know.

Thank you
Pero

Pero Jolevski
Blue Star Strategies
(+1)-202-833-1281
(+1)-202-822-9088 fax
pero.jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com

888 17th Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

www.bluestarstrategies.com

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Dear Karen,

Sally, Jes and I just talked to Morgan and he will hold a lunch spot on Thursday, March 31st (12:15-1:30pm) for Vadym to present on the energy situation in Ukraine for USUBC members. Morgan said he will invite about 30-35 members who would be interested for a lunch reception led by Vadym.

I sent a request to Marcy Kaptur as you saw this morning.

I will also reach out to:
- Tyler Brace: Republican Staff Contact for Senate Ukraine Caucus (Senator Portman's office)
- Chris Homan: Democrat Staff Contact for Senate Ukraine Caucus (Senator Durbin's office)
- John Herbst – Sally to do out reach?
- Alexander Orr – Ukraine desk officer at State (energy)
- Marc Gartner – Ukraine desk officer at State
- Hunter Biden for quick meeting

Let me know if I am missing anyone that should be on the list. And if you have 5-10 minutes at the end of the day today to confer and also discuss the upcoming Kiev trip and Prosecutor outreach, that would be helpful for me.

Thanks,
Sean

Dear All
I just spoke w/ Vadym -

He will be arriving on 29 March and expects no agenda on that day. Sally we may want to take him to dinner. On 30th - the evening will be focusing on the pull aside w/ President Porachenko - Jesica thank you for talking to Morgan's person L - and informing her of our needs.

Here are the meetings I discussed with Vadym

On the House side ... let's get Marcy Kapter if we can. Let's make the request early this week

Let's figure out the 2 staff people - one R and one D that either care about Ukraine or Energy but focus on Ukraine
In the Senate let's request meeting at the Ukraine desk -- Sally the guy we met with was very help.

He would like to just "stop by" to see Hunter - no more than 30 minutes because he does not have an agenda -

I think we should also ask for Pfifer or Herbts -- Sally what do you think?

We should try for meetings on the 30th and the afternoon of the 31st

Jesica he said Morgan was putting together a morning briefing for Vadym to discuss the energy situation in Ukraine the morning of the 31st would you check this out with Morgan and L --

any other thoughts?

sally i know you are trying to figure out whether the chief of staff is coming w/ the President -

Lastly let's begin to plan our trip to Kiev - leaving on the 5th. We still do not have the meeting w/ the General Prosecutor .... Let's together talk about how to get this done it's a MUST have for that trip

thanks
Karen
Burisma Holdings Ltd.

Washington, D.C. Meetings

Vadym Pozharskyi

March 29-April 1, 2016
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Washington, D.C.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29:

8:00 PM    Arrival in Washington

_Dulles International Airport_
_1 Saarinen Circle_
_Dulles, VA 20166_

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30:

9:00 AM   Briefing at Blue Star Strategies

Karen Tramontano, CEO, Blue Star Strategies

_Blue Star Strategies_
_888 17th Street NW_
_Suite 800_
_Washington, D.C. 20006_

10:00 AM  Arrival of Devon at Blue Star Strategies

10:30 AM  Meeting with Staff of Senator Rob Portman

Tyler Brace, Legislative Aide to Senator Rob Portman and Republican Staff
Contact for Senate Ukraine Caucus

_Office of Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)_
_448 Russell Senate Office Building_
_2 Constitution Ave NE_
_Washington, DC 20515_
_Tel: (202) 224-3353_

Staffer: Sally Painter

3:00 PM   Meeting with Staff of Senator Jeanne Shaheen

Josh Lucas, Foreign Policy Advisor to Sen. Jeanne Shaheen

_Office of Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-OH)_
_506 Hart Senate Office Building_
_Washington, DC 20510_
_Tel: (202) 224-2841_
Staffer: Karen

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Reception before Poroshenko Speech
Atrium by Congressional Auditorium
U.S. Capitol Visitors Center
First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20515

Staffers: Karen and Sally

N.B. Ticket and photo ID required
Seating for speech begins at 6:00pm

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Speech by President Petro Poroshenko
Congressional Auditorium
U.S. Capitol Visitors Center
First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20515

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
VIP Reception with President Petro Poroshenko
Congressional Meeting Room South
U.S. Capitol Visitors Center
First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20515

THURSDAY, MARCH 31:

10:30 AM
Meeting with Congressional Staff of Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)

TJ Lowdermilk, Legislative Assistant (Energy)
Nora Sarsour, Legislative Assistant (Foreign Affairs)

Office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-9)
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Tel: (202) 225-4146

Staffer: Jesica Lindgren

12:15 PM - 1:45 PM
USUBC Roundtable Briefing and Lunch with Vadym Pozharskyi
“Ukraine’s Future Energy Security”

Hosted by: Morgan Williams, President/CEO, U.S.-Ukraine Business Council
1030 15th Street NW  
Suite 230E, Conference Room  
Washington, DC 20005

2:30 PM Meeting with Hunter Biden  
-3:00 PM  
Hunter Biden, Director, Burisma Holdings  

Rosemont Seneca Partners  
1010 Wisconsin Ave NW  
Suite 705  
Washington, DC 20007  
Tel: (202) 333-1880  

Staffer: Karen

3:30 PM Meeting with State Department Officials  
-4:15PM  
Alex Orr, Ukraine Desk Officer, State Department  
Marc Gartner, Ukraine Desk Officer, State Department  
Leo Gallagher, Bureau of Energy Resources, State Department  

2201 C Street NW*  
Washington, D.C. 20520  
Tel: (202) 647-5998  

*Note: Alex and Marc to meet you outside the C street entrance  

Staffer: Karen

7:00 PM Dinner with Karen and Sally  

Karen Tramontano, CEO, Blue Star Strategies  
Sally Painter, COO, Blue Star Strategies  

Location to be determined

FRIDAY, APRIL 1:  

5:20 PM Departure from Washington
BACKGROUND

Office of Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)

*Senator Rob Portman* is an influential Republican politician who is currently the junior United States Senator from Ohio, in office since 2011. Portman won his first election in 1993, earning a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Portman became a U.S. trade representative under President George W. Bush in 2005. He also served as Bush's budget director from 2006 to 2007. In 2010, Portman won his bid for the U.S. Senate. Portman is a member of the Finance Committee, Committee On Homeland Security And Governmental Affairs, Energy And Natural Resources Committee, and Committee On The Budget.

Senator Portman is also the co-chair of the Senate Ukraine Caucus, which was inaugurated in February 2015 to “strengthen the political, military, economic, and cultural relationship between the United States and Ukraine.” Portman has been a vocal advocate on behalf of Ukraine in the Senate, arguing for increased military assistance to Ukraine, speaking out in favor of loan guarantees to the country, and writing several op-eds on the subject. Senator Portman has also participated in two Congressional delegations to Ukraine, met with President Petro Poroshenko after his address to Congress in September 2014, and co-sponsored the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014.

*Tyler Brace* is a legislative assistant to Senator Rob Portman. His legislative responsibilities include the armed services and military, defense, foreign affairs, homeland security, intelligence issues, judiciary issues, and veterans’ affairs. He is also the Republican Staff contact for the Senate Ukraine Caucus, which is co-chaired by Senator Portman. In this capacity, he travelled to Ukraine in October 2014, to serve as an election monitor for Ukraine’s parliamentary elections and meet with key Ukrainian and U.S. Embassy officials. Previously, Tyler worked in the office of Congressman Michael Turner.
Office of Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)

Senator Jeanne Shaheen is the senior United States Senator from New Hampshire, in office since 2009. She also served as Governor of New Hampshire from 1997 to 2003, and remains the only woman in U.S. history to be elected as both a Governor and a U.S. Senator. She is a member of the Senate Committees on Armed Services, Appropriations, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, and the Committee on Foreign Relations. She is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Cooperation.

Senator Shaheen is also a vice chair of the Senate Ukraine Caucus, which was inaugurated in February 2015 to strengthen ties between the United States and Ukraine. Shaheen has been a strong advocate for Ukraine, speaking frequently of the need to increase military and financial aid to the country and to punish Russia with sanctions. Senator Shaheen led a Congressional delegation to Ukraine in October 2015, where she met with President Poroshenko and Prime Minister Yatsenyuk, and urged the country to follow through on anti-corruption reforms.

Josh Lucas is the Senior Defense and Foreign Policy Advisor to Senator Jeanne Shaheen. He advises her on her work in the Foreign Relations Committee and on relevant foreign policy or military legislation.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who represents Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, is currently serving her sixteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the senior-most woman in the House and the longest-serving woman from Ohio in history. Congresswoman Kaptur ranks among the most senior Members of the 114th Congress. She sits on the influential House Committee on Appropriations.

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TJ Lowdermilk is a Legislative Assistant in the Office of Representative Marcy Kaptur. He advises the Congresswoman on energy, natural resources, and defense issues, among other matters. His primary responsibility is to handle Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee work for the Department of Energy. He previously worked as a legislative fellow in the Office of Representative Matthew Cartwright.

Nora Sarsour is a Legislative Assistant in the Office of Representative Marcy Kaptur. She advises the Congresswoman on foreign affairs, with particular interest in Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Russia, and the Middle East. Nora previously worked in the Office of Representative Jim Moran and as a Congressional Staff Assistant in the White House’s Presidential Personnel Office.
State Department

Office of Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus Affairs [EUR/UMB]

The Office of Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus Affairs is an office within the State Department's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. EUR/UMB coordinates U.S. foreign policy with Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. The office serves as the link between the three embassies, bureaus and offices within the Department, and a wide range of U.S. Government agencies. EUR/UMB works closely with posts in the development and implementation of U.S. political and economic strategy for each country and for the region. The overarching goal is to help these countries develop into nations that are democratic, prosperous, secure within their own borders, and free to become full partners in the Euro-Atlantic community.

Alexander Orr, Ukraine Desk Officer
Alexander Orr is a desk officer for Ukraine at the State Department’s Office of Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus Affairs. He has worked for the State Department since August 2009 at various postings both in Washington, D.C. and abroad. Alex has worked as the Vice Consul at the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan; an Economic Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia; and a Trade and Commercial Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi, Pakistan. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Alex worked as an Emerging Markets Equities Analyst at JPMorgan Chase, and a strategy consultant for Oliver Wyman in New York.

Marc Gartner, Ukraine Desk Officer
Marc Gartner is an Economic Officer at the Ukraine desk in the State Department’s Office of Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus Affairs. Marc previously served in the Economic Section at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine. He holds a Master of Business Administration from UCLA. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Marc worked in finance in Los Angeles, California.

Bureau of Energy Resources [ENR]
The Bureau of Energy Resources is a State Department bureau first established in October 2011. The Bureau has three principal goals:
1) To manage the geopolitics of today’s energy economy through vigorous diplomacy with producers and consumers;
2) To stimulate market forces for transformational policies in alternative energy, electricity, development and reconstruction;
3) To increase access to energy in developing countries, expand good governance, and deepen transparency.

Leo Gallagher, Officer at Bureau of Energy Resources
Leo Gallagher is an officer at the State Department’s Bureau of Energy Resources. Leo’s previous roles have included work as an Economic/Commercial Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Barbados.
Burisma Holdings Ltd.

Washington, D.C. Meetings

Devon Archer

March 29-April 1, 2016
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Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, March 30:

10:00 AM Arrival for Briefing at Blue Star Strategies

Sally Painter, COO, Blue Star Strategies

Blue Star Strategies
888 17th Street NW
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006

10:30 AM Meeting with Staff of Senator Rob Portman

Tyler Brace, Legislative Aide to Senator Rob Portman and Republican Staff
Contact for Senate Ukraine Caucus

Office of Senator Rob Portman (R -OH)
448 Russell Senate Office Building
2 Constitution Ave NE
Washington, DC 20515
Tel: (202) 224-3353

Staffer: Sally Painter

3:00 PM Meeting with Staff of Senator Jeanne Shaheen

Josh Lucas, Foreign Policy Advisor to Sen. Jeanne Shaheen

Office of Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D -OH)
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: (202) 224-2841

Staffer: Karen

5:30 PM - 7:00PM Reception before Poroshenko Speech

Atrium by Congressional Auditorium
U.S. Capitol Visitors Center
First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20515
Staffers: Karen and Sally

N.B. Ticket and photo ID required
Seating for speech begins at 6:00pm

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Speech by President Petro Poroshenko**

*Congressional Auditorium*
*U.S. Capitol Visitors Center*
*First Street, NE*
*Washington, DC 20515*

**Thursday, March 31:**

**10:30 AM**

**Meeting with Congressional Staff of Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)**

TJ Lowdermilk, Legislative Assistant (Energy)
Nora Sarsour, Legislative Assistant (Foreign Affairs)

*Office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-9)*
*2186 Rayburn House Office Building*
*Washington, DC 20515*
*Tel: (202) 225-4146*

Staffer: Jesica Lindgren

**12:15 PM - 1:45 PM**

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*Suite 705*
*Washington, DC 20007*
*Tel: (202) 333-1880*
Staffer: Karen

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Karen Tramontano, CEO, Blue Star Strategies  
Sally Painter, COO, Blue Star Strategies  

*Location to be determined*
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Dear Andrii,

Thank you very much. It was indeed a pleasure to meet you. As I mentioned, Sally and I will be in Kiev April 6, 7 and 8. The attorney from the U.S. John Buretta who has reviewed the matter we discussed and I would like to meet the General Prosecutor on April 6th – preferable in the afternoon. I will reach out to John today to see whether he has any flexibility and get back to you ASAP. Thank you again for your assistance.

Most sincerely,
Karen

---

From: Andrii Telizhenko [mailto:telizhenko.andriy@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 5:14 PM
To: Karen Tramontano <Karen.Tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com>; Sally Painter <Sally.Painter@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: RE: Andrii Telizhenko (Embassy of Ukraine)

Dear Sally, Karen,

It was nice seeing you at the Embassy today, thank you for coming and your help. This is my email that I respond 24/7 if you have any questions.

My cell 202 230 0141

With Regards,

Andrii Telizhenko
Karen,  

Hi, hope you are well. I am back in Kyiv, had a long flight back, getting out of the jet lag. I was at the PGO today, they are asking me to come back- still thinking.

Next week there will be a new Deputy on international Relations - I would recommend you to send the letter to the international office. There are mostly new assistants right now. If you could send the letter also this week I will pass it to Mr. Lutsenko.

Also to understand what is the situation in the PGO and the Ministry of Internal Relations - I would recommend to have an unofficial meeting with former Prosecutor General Mr. Yarema?

Andrii
Karen Tramontano

Hi, hope all is well. I wanted to get back on the PGO meeting. Last week received all the documents, all is good. However, I wanted to recommend to in the official request letter to take away Mr. Zlochevskiy's company name and his name, just request the meeting and put just the topics you wanted to discuss except Zlochevskiy. I will brief you more when you come to Kyiv, but because the President does not really like Zlochevskiy - he has personal issues Mr. Lutchenko will deny the meeting if his name will stay in the letter. You can raise the issue during the meeting, but on the official letters I would recommend to remove it.

I spoke to the chief of staff, he is ready to meet but please take off the name of company and his name.

Thank you

Andrii
Ill keep you posted. Have a nice weekend)

On Friday, June 10, 2016, Karen Tramontano <Karen.Tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com> wrote:
thank you very much

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 10, 2016, at 7:34 AM, Andrii Telizhenko <telizhenko.andriy@gmail.com> wrote:
Karen, Sally,

Yes, received the documents. I was just at the PGO - passed the letters to the Chief of Staff he said that
next week (Tuesday) should confirm the time and what exact date of the meeting.

Waiting to see you in Kyiv.

Andrii

On Friday, June 10, 2016, Karen Tramontano <Karen.Tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com> wrote:
Dear Andrii

Thank you for your assistance. I hope you received the revised letter. Is there any news to report
? Look forward to seeing you in Kiev
All the best
Karen

Sent from my iPhone

________________________________________________________________________

Andrii Telizhenko | Andrii Telizhenko
             | telizhenko.andriy@gmail.com |
From Jun 21 Kiev (SK) To Jun 23

7 AM

8

9

10

11

12 PM

1

Project Mercury

2

3

4

meditation

5

6

4:00am - 5:00am 11am Meeting with Prosecutor (SK)(18 Borisohilbska street, office 301)

Karen Tramontano
Sally -

Thanks for following up - I'm looping in our scheduling team and some other colleagues.

Regards,

-----Original Message-----
From: Sally Painter [mailto:Sally.Painter@bluestarstrategies.com]
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 9:05 AM
To: Pero Jolevski
Cc: D_Scheduling
Subject: Coffee with Tony

Dear [name]

Per my conversation with Tony at the Truman event, Karen Tramontano and I would like to have a brief coffee with Tony at his earliest convenience regarding some troubling events we are seeing in Ukraine. (He said yes).

Karen was President Clinton's Deputy Chief of Staff and we are just back from Kiev.

Many thanks for your help. With warm regards sally

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mr. Ambassador,

Quick update. Masha called Karen back and they had a very good conversation.

She said she would clear up any confusion around the misrepresentation that we are representing Andriy Klyuyev – which as you know we are not and have never met him.

Thank you very much for your guidance, support and most importantly friendship. Karen and I deeply appreciate it and you. Warmest sally

Sally Painter
Co-Founder and COO
Blue Star Strategies

(+1) 202-833-1268 direct
(+1) 202-822-9088 fax
sally.painter@bluestarstrategies.com

888 17th Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

www.bluestarstrategies.com

The information in this transmittal is privileged and confidential and is intended only for the recipient(s) listed above. If you are not the intended recipient(s) for the delivery of this transmittal, you are hereby notified that any unauthorized distribution or copying of this
transmittal is prohibited. If you have received this transmittal in error, please notify me at (+1) 202-833-1281
Dear Vadym,

Greetings. I had a good conversation today with Susan Fritz, the new USAID Mission Director in Ukraine, and her Deputy Joel Sandefur. Here are the takeaways:

GENERAL COMMENTS

- USAID is currently in the process of developing a new five-year strategy in Ukraine.
- One of USAID’s main priorities is anti-corruption, including programs on e-governance and e-procurement.
- USAID will also be pushing judicial reform and decentralization, and will continue to advocate for civil society groups to act as watchdogs and advocates for reform.
- We raised our concern that anti-corruption efforts by civil society in Ukraine have too often been based on groundless allegations and not the rule of law. Susan said that she is aware of the current allegations against leading “reformers” in Parliament but is still trying to get her bearings as she is new in the country. She agreed that this is a very gray area and she needed to learn a lot more before making any conclusions.

BURISMA AND ENERGY

- In the energy sector, USAID’s priorities include programs on energy efficiency and reducing waste.
- We stressed that Ukraine needs to attract FDI in the energy sector, and that the best way to do so is to work with existing investors and companies in the country, like Burisma.
- We discussed how we are working with Burisma on issues of corporate social responsibility and energy diversification.
- We mentioned that Burisma is the largest private gas producer in Ukraine and has worked with Steve Gonyea on the Municipal Energy Reform Project (MERP), which Susan noted is winding down in early 2017 so there is not much activity going forward. (Going forward we should work with her and Joel.)
- With regard to further cooperation between Burisma and USAID, Susan and Joel said they are open to a discussion.
- We agreed to introduce you to Joel and Susan via e-mail so we can set up a meeting to discuss potential further cooperation.

It was a constructive and good discussion. She seems to be open to making her own evaluation of the company, rather than taking others views. She also said she would be happy to meet Karen and me when we are next in Kiev.

Happy to discuss further.

with warmest personal regards,
Sally Painter
Co-Founder and COO
Blue Star Strategies

(+1) 202-833-1281 direct
(+1) 202-822-9088 fax
sally.painter@bluestarstrategies.com

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Sally Painter

From: Sally Painter
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2016 1:18 PM
To: Vadym Pozharskyi
Cc: Karen Tramontano; Pero Jolevski
Subject: Re: meeting follow up

Great

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 31, 2016, at 11:02 AM, Vadym Pozharskyi <vadym.pozharskyi@burisma.com> wrote:

Dear colleagues,
This is to let you know that today I had a brief 30 minute meeting with our colleagues from the USAID: I presented the company, we exchanged ideas and agreed to stay in touch should any opportunities arise for our cooperation in close future.
Thank you for your assistance with this,
Best,
Vadym

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: Vadym Pozharskyi <vadym.pozharskyi@burisma.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 31, 2016 at 6:00 PM
Subject: meeting follow up
To: Susan Fritz <sfritz@usaid.gov>, Joel Sandefur <jsandefur@usaid.gov>, Natalia Kolesnik <nkolesnik@usaid.gov>

Dear Susan and Joel
Thank you so much for our constructive meeting today. It was my pleasure. I hope this meeting will lead to our productive cooperation in the future.
Stay in touch.
Very best,
Vadym
Karen Tramontano

From: Karen Tramontano
Sent: Saturday, November 19, 2016 8:05 AM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L
Cc: Wampler, Dianne
Subject: Re: Coming to Ukraine

great i'll follow up with dianne directly. c.u soon

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 19, 2016, at 7:30 AM, Yovanovitch, Marie L <YovanovitchML2@state.gov> wrote:

<image003.gif>
Karen—

Look forward to seeing you. My assistant Di will be in touch to set up a time.

Best, M

Marie L. Yovanovitch
Ambassador
U.S. Embassy Kyiv
Office: +380-44-521-5479
Email: YovanovitchML2@state.gov

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Karen Tramontano [mailto:Karen.Tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 4:41 PM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L
Subject: Coming to Ukraine

Dear Madame Ambassador

I hope you are well. As you know things are a bit in flux in Washington these days. I will be in Kiev sometime the week of December 5th and I have flexibility in planning my visit so I was wondering if there is any day that week where we could meet perhaps for a cup of coffee or lunch. I know your schedule is very busy so I will accommodate any date/time that works for you. Thank you very much and I look forward to meeting

My warmest regards

Karen

Karen A. Tramontano
Blue Star Strategies

(+1) 202-833-1265 direct
(+1) 202-320-4102 mobile
(+1) 202-822-9088 fax

karen.tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com

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Pero Jolevski

From: Pero Jolevski
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 9:58 AM
To: Singh, Reggie X
Subject: RE: Requesting a meeting

Great! See you later today.

Pero

From: Singh, Reggie X [mailto:SinghRX@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 9:56 AM
To: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: RE: Requesting a meeting

Pero- A couple of my colleagues on the Ukraine desk may join this meeting as well. See you at 4:30 today.

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Pero Jolevski [mailto:Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Singh, Reggie X
Subject: RE: Requesting a meeting

Dear Reggie,

The names of the people attending the meeting with you are the following:

Karen Tramontano
Pero Jolevski

If you need any additional information please let me know.

We look forward to meeting you.

Best regards,
Pero

From: Singh, Reggie X [mailto:SinghRX@state.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 5:26 PM
To: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: RE: Requesting a meeting

For pre-clearance, don’t need ID info, just full names of all attendees. But you should bring proper ID with you to enter the building.
Excellent. Thank you. I will send you ID and passport information on Monday if you don't mind.

Have a nice weekend!
Pero

---

From: Singh, Reggie X [mailto:SinghRX@state.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 5:19 PM
To: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: RE: Requesting a meeting

Yes, that should work. Let's lock it in.

---

From: Pero Jolevski [mailto:Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com]
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 5:14 PM
To: Singh, Reggie X
Subject: RE: Requesting a meeting

Thank you, Reggie. Would it be possible to meet at 4:30 pm on December 14? We have a meeting in the Senate ending at 3:30 pm so want to make sure we are on time.

Please let me know if that works with you.

Pero

---

From: Singh, Reggie X [mailto:SinghRX@state.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 5:12 PM
To: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: RE: Requesting a meeting

Hi Pero- Dec.14 might work to meet. Do you have available times that day?

---

From: Pero Jolevski [mailto:Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com]
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 12:57 PM
To: Singh, Reggie X
Subject: RE: Requesting a meeting

Dear Reggie,
Just checking to see if a meeting would be possible next week?

Many thanks

Pero

From: Pero Jolevski
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 1:55 PM
To: 'Singh, Reggie X' <SinghRX@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Requesting a meeting

Dear Reggie,

I am writing to follow up to see if you are available to meet next week. At the meeting it will be

and Karen Tramontano.

Many thanks

Pero

From: Singh, Reggie X [mailto:SinghRX@state.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 5:34 PM
To: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: RE: Requesting a meeting

Hi Pero- sorry for the delay in responding. Can you give me a call on Monday to discuss in more detail?

Regards,
Reggie Singh
Econ Unit Chief
Office of Ukrainian Affairs
U.S. Dept. of State
tel. 202-647-5998

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Pero Jolevski [mailto:Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:41 AM
To: Singh, Reggie X
Cc: Karen Tramontano
Subject: Requesting a meeting
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Singh,

I am writing to request a meeting with you and

international energy company headquartered in Ukraine with operations in the country as well as
other markets such as Italy and Germany. Burisma is an oil and gas exploration company, and recently
expanded its operations with geothermal energy production. in Washington DC on the
week of December 12. Given your role with the State Department we wanted to check if you are available for a
meeting to brief you on the political and commercial developments in Ukraine. Would you be available for a
short meeting on December 13 or 14?
For your background, the Board of Directors of Burisma consist of U.S. nationals and the company uses U.S. technology for its operations. At the meeting it will be [redacted] and Karen Tramontano, CEO of Blue Star Strategies – an international consulting firm based in Washington, DC. Karen also served as the Deputy Chief of Staff of President Clinton. Please see attached bios for your consideration.

Many thanks in advance. If you have any questions please let me know.

Best regards,

Pero Jolevski
Blue Star Strategies
(+1)-202-833-1281
(+1)-202-822-9088 fax
pero.jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com

888 17th Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

www.bluestarstrategies.com

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Dear Vadym,

Please find attached letter from Ambassador Herbst for the visa application purposes.

Best regards
Pero

Pero Jolevski
Blue Star Strategies

(+1)-202-833-1281
(+1)-202-822-9088 fax

pero.jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com

888 17th Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

www.bluestarstrategies.com
INVITATION

Mykola Zlochevskyi
10-A Ryleyeva Str.
04073, Kyiv
Ukraine

Dear Mr. Zlochevskyi,

The Atlantic Council invites you to attend a Ukraine Strategy Session on March 19, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Atlantic Council headquarters (1030 15th Street NW, 12th Floor, West Elevators).

The session will feature prominent international policy makers and experts. To RSVP, please email my colleague Taman Ramishvili at tramishvili@atlanticcouncil.org.

We hope you can join us for this important and timely strategy session.

Best,

John

John Herbst
Ambassador (Ret.)
Director, Eurasia Center
Dear Karen,

Attached is the briefing book for Vadym. The only outstanding point is the location of the meeting with Hunter. I will speak with Joan early next week to see if their office will be ready. If their office is not ready, Joan suggested that Vadym and Hunter meet at the Four Seasons Hotel.

On March 7, when Vadym arrives, we marked the meeting at BSS. If you would like to meet him at his hotel we can change that.

Thanks
Pero

-----Original Message-----
From: Karen Tramontano
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:12 PM
To: Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>
Cc: Jesica Lindgren <jesica.lindgren@bluestarstrategies.com>; Norman Rozenberg <Norman.Rozenberg@bluestarstrategies.com>; Sally Painter <Sally.Painter@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: RE: Burisma background; March 8 meeting

thanks. i have jaimes cv and jes has charles

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 27, 2017, at 2:59 PM, Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com> wrote:
> Thanks, Karen. Will work on all points.
> Pero
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Karen Tramontano
> Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 2:46 PM
> To: Jesica Lindgren <jesica.lindgren@bluestarstrategies.com>
> Cc: Norman Rozenberg <Norman.Rozenberg@bluestarstrategies.com>; Pero Jolevski <Pero.Jolevski@bluestarstrategies.com>; Sally Painter <Sally.Painter@bluestarstrategies.com>
> Subject: RE: Burisma background; March 8 meeting
>
> >
Would you coordinate w/ Norman the briefing book and background material for Vadym. The meeting schedule is:

Tuesday, March 7th arrival maybe check with Anna on his actual arrival and see if he needs a car... Norman could handle w/ Anna

Upon arrival ...hotel check in followed by a meeting w/ the Blue Star Team ...

You, Jesica, Norman and Sally - topics are:

1. Philanthropic Award
2. Political Action - US
3. Civil Society - Ukraine
4. Engineers - if we have anything to say

March 8

9:30 meeting .... Jaime ... (one on one)

11:30 meeting Charles (one on one)

2 pm Atlantic Council Sally - perhaps KT

3:30 return to hotel/free time

6:30 dinner Sally, Cofer Karen - Al Crostino (please confirm w/ Cofer)

March 9

Hotel/free time

11:00 meeting Hunter Biden - would you call Joan or Eric Schwerin in Hunter's Office - originally they asked for the meeting to be in our offices but I think their new offices are ready.

Depart to Texas -- Anna knows the times it would be good to know

We need to include the two cv's Jaime and Charles ...

Thanks

-----Original Message-----
From: Jesica Lindgren
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:40 AM
To: Charles Di Leva <charlesdileva@gmail.com>
Cc: Karen Tramontano <Karen.Tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com>; Norman Rozenberg <Norman.Rozenberg@bluestarstrategies.com>
Subject: Re: Burisma background; March 8 meeting

Many thanks, Charles!
Best, Jesica

Sent from my iPhone
On Feb 26, 2017, at 8:22 PM, Charles Di Leva <charlesdileva@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Jesica,

Attached please find my CV. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks again to you and Karen for your help in arranging the 11:30 meeting on the 8th. I look forward to meeting Vadym.

Warm regards,

Charles

---

Forwarded message

From: Jesica Lindgren <jesica.lindgren@bluestarstrategies.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 22, 2017 at 5:02 PM
Subject: Burisma background; March 8 meeting
To: Charles Di Leva <charlesdileva@gmail.com>
Cc: Karen Tramontano <Karen.Tramontano@bluestarstrategies.com>, Norman Rozenberg <Norman.Rozenberg@bluestarstrategies.com>

Dear Charles,

Thanks again for our meeting us yesterday. Here is some background about Burisma Holdings for your review (attached and below).

Vadym Pozharskyi, Advisor to the Board of Directors, will be in DC on Wed. March 8th. He would like to meet you at 4pm at our offices if you are available?

Please forward me your CV when you can, too.

Amb. Joseph Cofer Black is the newest member of the Board of Directors. Good interview in the Kyiv Post about his interest in joining the board:

Finally, here’s a recap of Burisma’s forum last year in Monaco, with planning underway for June 1, 2017:


Please let us know if any questions. Thanks in advance for your CV and confirming if 4pm on March 8th works for you here.

Best,

Jesica

Jesica Lindgren | Blue Star Strategies

888 17th Street NW, Suite 800 | Washington, DC 20006

(Office) +1 202 833 1281 (Desk) +1 202 650 5466

(Cell) +1 202 615 9783 (Fax) +1 202 822 9088

jesica.lindgren@bluestarstrategies.com

www.bluestarstrategies.com

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   Dr. Jaime Jaramillo-Vallejo ................................................................................

   Charles Di Leva ....................................................................................................
BLUE STAR STRATEGIES CONTACT NUMBERS

Sally Painter, Chief Operating Officer: Cell +1 301 580 1569
Karen Tramontano, Chief Executive Officer: Cell +1 202 320 4102
Jesica Lindgren, General Counsel Cell +1 202 615 9783
Pero Jolevski, Director Cell +1 202 250 4272
Norman Rozenberg, Intern Cell +1 732 824 1505

AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 7:

3:20 PM Arrival in Washington, D.C.

Driver (will greet you at international arrivals)

Ike, Tel: 240-463-7414

Hotel

Softtel Lafayette Square
806 15th Street, NW
Washington, D.C.
202-730-8800

5:00 PM Meeting with Blue Star Team
Location: Blue Star Strategies, 888 17 Street NW, Suite 800
With: Sally Painter, Jesica Lindgren, Pero Jolevski & Norman Rozenberg

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8:

9:30 AM Meeting with Dr. Jaime Jaramillo-Vallejo
Location: Blue Star Strategies, 888 17 Street NW, Suite 800

11:30 AM Meeting with Charles Di Leva
Location: Blue Star Strategies, 888 17 Street NW, Suite 800

2:00 PM Meeting with Atlantic Council
Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15 Street NW
With: Ambassador John Herbst, Sally Painter
3:30 PM  Free time/Return to Hotel

5:00 PM  Meeting with Cofer Black  
*Location:* Blue Star Strategies, 888 17 Street NW, Suite 800

6:30 PM  Dinner at Al Crostino  
*Location:* 1926 9 Street NW  
*With:* Karen Tramontano, Sally Painter & Cofer Black

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9:**

11:00 AM  Meeting with Hunter Biden  
*Location:* TBD

6:30 PM  Depart for DCA Airport – Regan National Airport

8:05 PM  Depart for Dallas, Texas

**Hotel**

*Marriott Fort Worth West at Cityview.*
6400 Overton Ridge Blvd
Fort Worth, TX 76132
817-294-7600

**FRIDAY, MARCH 10:**

6:00 PM  Meeting with Aerotek  
*Location:* Marriott Fort Worth West at Cityview  
*With:* Justin Tredway & Missy Kanz

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11:**

1:10 PM  Depart for DFW Airport

4:10 PM  Depart for Kiev
ATLANTIC COUNCIL BACKGROUND

Ambassador John Herbst
Director, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center

Ambassador Herbst served for thirty-one years as a foreign service officer in the US Department of State, retiring at the rank of career-minister. He was US ambassador to Ukraine from 2003 to 2006, when he worked to enhance US-Ukrainian relations, help ensure the conduct of a fair Ukrainian presidential election, and prevent violence during the Orange Revolution. Prior to that, he was ambassador to Uzbekistan (2000-03), where he played a critical role in the establishment of an American base to help conduct Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He also promoted improved US-Uzbek relations, in part by encouraging the government in Tashkent to improve its human rights record.

In his last four years at the State Department, he served as the coordinator for reconstruction and stabilization, leading the US government's civilian capacity in societies in transition from conflict or civil strife, and to provide support to countries at risk of instability. He oversaw the establishment of the Civilian Response Corps of the United States, the US civilian rapid response force for reconstruction and stabilization operations overseas.

Ambassador Herbst previously served as US consul general in Jerusalem; principal deputy to the Ambassador-at-Large for the Newly Independent States; the Director of the office of independent states and commonwealth affairs; director of regional affairs in the Near East Bureau; and at the embassies in Tel Aviv, Moscow, and Saudi Arabia.

He most recently served as director of the center for complex operations at National Defense University. He has received the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the Secretary of State’s Career Achievement Award, and the State Department’s Distinguished Honor Award. Ambassador Herbst has written book chapters, articles, and op-eds on stability operations in Central Asia, Ukraine, and Russia. His writings have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Atlantic, the National Interest, and Foreign Policy. He has been a frequent guest discussing the Ukraine crisis on television and radio.

Ambassador Herbst earned a bachelor of science in foreign service from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Phi Beta Kappa, and a master of law and diplomacy, with distinction, from the Fletcher School at Tufts University. He also attended the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies Bologna Center.
AEROTEK BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Founded in 1983 by Steve Bisciotti and Jim Davis, Aerotek is one of the largest privately held staffing and recruitment services in the world. Aerotek was founded to support the aerospace and defense industries but has since expanded into the energy & utilities, construction, financial services, biotechnology, engineering, automotive, and other technical fields. Aerotek is headquartered outside of Baltimore, Maryland and has offices across the United States and around the world, including Germany, France, the United Kingdom, China, and Japan.

Justin Tredway
Account Executive, Aerotek
Justin Tredway is an account executive based in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas at Aerotek. He has been in this position since 2009, after receiving his Bachelor degree in Business Administration and Marketing from the University of North Texas. He specializes in the placement of technical professionals with various backgrounds in engineering including manufacturing, oil and gas, medical device as well as software, hardware and test engineering skill sets.

Missy Kanz
Technical Recruiter Lead, Aerotek
Missy Kanz specializes in technical recruiting for oil & gas industry, traditional energy, and alternative energy. She has been at the Fort Worth office since 2015. Kanz obtained her Bachelor degree from Otterbein University.
Main highlights in the macroeconomic and financial area, especially banking, which have been the central theme of my career:

Policy and Regulation:
• As a lead member of Colombia's Monetary Board, led the government's technical team responsible for macroeconomic policy, and designed and championed a set of reforms that included: a free foreign exchange system replacing existing strict controls, banking regulations pioneering the principles of the Basel I Accords ahead of OECD countries, a Banking Law allowing more competition, and the elimination of all the quasi-fiscal burdens on financial institutions. These reforms still hold after two decades, with some refinements.
• Negotiated and drafted the Law for the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina (currency board), including the monetary system. This is one of the few currency boards in recent history that has survived for almost two decades.
• As a senior advisor, worked with the Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine in the monetary reform that substituted the kupon for the Hryvnia, a key element for ending hyperinflation in Ukraine.
• As lead advisor to Slovenia on the monetary aspects of its independence, helped develop macroeconomic policies that ensured the stability and convertibility of the new currency, and helped adapt the relevant regulations to the introduction of Slovenia's own currency, including a free exchange system. Also developed and put in place a working methodology for Slovenia's monetary policy.

Supervision:
• As one of the Colombian President's representatives in the Advisory Council of the Superintendency of Banks (two phases), vetted all the major decisions on supervisory activities, including the intervention of financial institutions, the resolution of issues arising from on- and off-site inspections, and the program and methodology of inspections.

Financial and Corporate Practice:
• Member of the Boards of Directors of Banco de Colombia, Fiducolombia S.A., and Aseguradora Grancolombiana S.A.. In this capacity, oversaw Banco de Colombia's external financing and anti-money laundering programs.
• Member of the Board of Directors of Banco del Estado.
• Attorney for several commercial banks on Banking Law and Regulations issues.

Research:
• Produced government policy papers that set the directions and guidelines for the substantial reforms of monetary and banking systems referenced above.
• Produced several published papers focusing on the public policy aspects of different kinds of regulations, including banking, and anti-money laundering.

Other:
• Member of the World Bank's Financial and Private Sector Development Board (2006-10).
DETAILED C.V.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

1979 to 1983 PH.D. IN ECONOMICS BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Boston
Areas: Money and Banking, Econometrics and International Economics

1979 to 1982 M.A. IN POLITICAL ECONOMY BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Boston

1968 to 1973 J.D. (DÖCTORIS SCIENCIAE JURIDICAE) UNIVERSIDAD JAVERIANA, Bogotá, D.C.

EXPERIENCE

2016 to Date INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT ON MONETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS:
Centennial Group:
Review of the relationship between national savings and financial deepening in Africa.
Analysis Group:
Peru's treatment of its Agrarian Bonds.

2012 to 2016 INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND:
Senior Financial Sector Expert, Monetary and Capital Markets Department, Financial
Crisis Preparedness and Management Division.

2002 to 2012 WORLD BANK:
Head of Country Evaluations and Lead Economist, Independent Evaluation Group
(IEG), Country Evaluation and Regional Relations (IEGCR) Unit and Country, Corporate
and Global Evaluations (IEGCC) Unit.
Lead Economist, Operations Policies and Country Services Vice-presidency (OPCS),
Country Economics Unit (OPCCE).
Lead Economist, Operations Policies and Country Services Vice-presidency (OPCS),
Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) Secretariat.
Visiting Research Fellow, World Bank Institute, Governance, Regulation & Finance
Division.

1995 to 2001 INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT ON MONETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS:
United States Department of the Treasury:
• Treasury's Representative in the Monetary Monitoring Committee of Indonesia's
  Macroeconomic Program.
• Special Advisor for the development of the economic institutions of the Dayton Peace
  Accords in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially the central bank and monetary system.

World Bank:
• Head of the Macroeconomic Team of the Joint Assessment Mission to Timor-Leste.
• Team Leader for the development of the payments system in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
  and consultant on monetary and financial matters.

Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID):
• Senior Advisor to the Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine for the introduction of
  the Hryvnia.

Inter American Development Bank:
Assignments in Central America, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Peru.
Corporación Andina de Fomento, and Asociación de Bancos Privados de Bolivia.
1994 to 1995  PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD JAVERIANA. Dean of the School of Economics and Administrative Sciences.

1994  BANCO DE COLOMBIA S.A., FIDUCOLOMBIA S.A. ASEGURADORA GRANCOLOMBIANA S.A.: Member of the Board of Directors.

1993 to 1994  SUPERINTENDENCY OF BANKS OF COLOMBIA: Member of the Advisory Council to the Superintendent, appointed by the President of the Republic.

1993 to 1994  ESTRATEGIA ECONOMICA Y FINANCIERA. Editor-in-Chief and General Manager.

1993  MINISTRY OF PLANNING OF COLOMBIA: Senior Advisor to the Minister.

1992 to 1993  INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND:
Deputy Division Chief, Policy Development and Review Department, Stand-By Operations Division.
Deputy Division Chief, Policy Development and Review Department, Special Facilities and Issues Division.


1989 to 1991  MONETARY BOARD OF THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA: Advisor (Deputy Minister- level position). Concurrent with this capacity, appointed by the President of the Republic as:
• Member of the Advisory Council of the Superintendency of Banks (1990 to 1991).
• Advisor to the National Commission for Agricultural Credit (1991).

1990  UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, UNDP. Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister of Poland. (While on leave from the Monetary Board)

1988  MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF COLOMBIA: Economic Advisor to the Minister on macroeconomic, financial and trade matters.

1983 to 1988  INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND:
Economist, Exchange and Trade Relations Department, Stand By Operations Division.
Economist, Western Hemisphere Department, Pacific Division.

1976 to 1979  PEÑA Y JARAMILLO, ABOGADOS. Attorney for several banks, and member of the Board of Directors of Banco del Estado.

1974 to 1976  CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF BOGOTA. Financial Director.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2014 to date  GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIV., Elliot School of International Affairs, Washington, D.C. Assistant Instructor, Economic Development of Latin America (Master's level).

1995  UNIVERSIDAD JAVERIANA, Facultad de Economía, Bogotá, D.C. Lecturer, Macroeconomic Theory I (undergraduate level).

1988 to 1989  UNIVERSIDAD JAVERIANA, Postgrado en Economía, Bogotá, D.C.
- Director of the Dissertation Workshop on Macroeconomics.
- Lecturer, Money and Banking (Master's level).

Jaime Jaramillo-Vallejo - 3
1981  BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Graduate School, Boston
       Teaching Assistant, Macroeconomics (Master's level).

1976 to 1979  UNIVERSIDAD JAVERIANA, Facultad de Derecho, Bogotá, D.C.
    Lecturer, Introduction to Economics (first year level).

OTHER DISTINCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

2016  REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA: Awarded the Medal of Honor by the President of Slovenia for
       my contribution to the independence of the country as a member of the Sachs Group in
       1991. Other recipients: Jeffrey D. Sachs and David A. Lipton. Ceremony to be scheduled.

1999  KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION: Member of the Group of 30 Latin American social
       scientists exploring the second-generation structural reforms in the region.

2000 to 2001  HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF RISARALDA, CRINES, Pereira, Risaralda:
               President.

2001  COLOMBIAN FEDERATION OF HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATIONS, FEDEQUINAS,
       Bogotá, D.C.: Member of the Executive Board.


1974  TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE BOGOTA, D.C.: Accepted to the Bar.

To date  AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, Member,

PERSONAL DATA

Nationality: Colombian. USA Permanent Resident.
Date of birth: October 12, 1950.
Languages: Spanish and English.
References: Available upon request.

Attachment: Selected Publications

February 2017

Jaime Jaramillo-Vallejo - 4

Confidential Blue Star 0922
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Policy Papers:


Published Papers:


2002  "Lavado de Activos: Temas de Política Pública" in "Reforma Legal y Judicial y Control de la Corrupción en América Latina y el Caribe" edited by González de Asis, María, World Bank, Washington, D.C.

2000  "La Situación del Sistema Financiero Colombiano", in "Memorias de la Asamblea Anual de la Asociación Nacional de Instituciones Financieras", Montenegro and Langebeck, Editors, Bogotá, D.C.


1991  "Some Ideas on Monetary Programming" (Nekatere Ideje o Denarnem Programiranju) in Denarna In Devizna Gibanja, Letnik XXII, št. 4, National Bank of Slovenia, Ljubljana.
CHARLES E. DI LEVA

4445 Butterworth Place, N.W. E-mail: CharlesDiLeva@gmail.com
Washington, D.C. 20016 Mobile Tel: 202-746-0030

PROFILE

A recognized and trusted global expert with over thirty years’ experience in addressing the legal and policy challenges of sustainable development, climate change, and environmental and social risk management, particularly in large-scale high-risk infrastructure projects, and in accountability and compliance reviews and investigations. A leading legal expert on climate change, with expertise as the World Bank’s longest serving legal advisor on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its related agreements, as well as the Bank’s relations with the Green Climate Fund. Recognized as the longest serving legal expert on World Bank environmental and social safeguards, leading the Bank through the launch in 2012 of its largest global consultation and the successful adoption in 2016 of the new "Environmental and Social Framework for Investment Project Finance". Extensive network of professional relationships established during the development and implementation of the Bank’s environmental and social standards, including with other international financial institutions, civil society, and Indigenous Peoples’ organizations. A profile that includes diverse and broad senior advisory roles in the International Union for Conservation of Nature, United Nations Environment Program, and in U.S. federal, state, and private entities with a particularly unique background in the development and implementation of a range of multilateral environmental agreements and their global financing arrangements, and in the development and implementation of national environmental and natural resource related legislation and regulations.

EXPERIENCE

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Adjunct Professor. Helped design new course in International Trade and Sustainable Development. Focus on development of WTO and WTO Agreements, NAFTA and NAFTA Side Agreements and trade related adjudication. Multilateral Environmental Agreement and Trade, including recently adopted Paris Agreement and its relation to trade. Received "Certificate of Appreciation for Fifteen Years of Teaching".

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Adjunct Professor. Designed and taught courses on Comparative Environmental Law, Project Finance and the Environment; International Financial Institutions and International Law. Mentoring research project on Green Finance, overseeing Ph.D. Thesis on International Accountability Mechanisms.

INDEPENDENT ADVISOR ON ISSUES RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE LAW,
Washington DC, December 15, 2016 - present

Since retiring from the World Bank December 15, 2016, inter alia, serving as co-chair to Green Growth Knowledge Platform Rule of Law Committee (GGKP partnership of OECD, UNEP, World Bank and GGKI); pro bono legal advisor to Bird Life International; co-author for World Commission on Environmental Law advisory group on Inter-American Court of Human Rights Request for Advisory Opinion by Gov’t of Columbia relating to Transboundary Impact Assessment and Human Rights.
THE WORLD BANK, Washington, DC


Promoted in 2003 to the position of Chief Counsel following international competition, becoming the Bank’s chief legal advisor on environmental and social development law and policy issues. Served as legal advisor on environmental and social standards to World Bank Presidents, Senior Vice Presidents for Sustainable Development, and to the Directors of the Bank’s Global Practice on Environmental and Natural Resources and the Climate Change Solutions Area. Managed an international team of stellar legal experts responsible for institution-wide advice on environmental and social compliance, as well as the development and implementation of climate and carbon finance instruments and operations.

Beginning in 2012 with the launch of the largest consultation in Bank history, led all legal responsibilities for the drafting and negotiating of the Bank’s first-ever “Environmental and Social Framework” (2016) for investment project finance. Throughout this period, also led the Bank’s legal preparations leading to the Paris Agreement, including in negotiations for the Bank to be accredited to the Green Climate Fund and thereafter, to finalize the GCF Accreditation Master Agreement. Represented the Bank as legal advisor on treaty related matters, particularly on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and CITES treaty negotiations, including for the 2015 “Paris Agreement” Handled negotiations on environmental and policy issues with a range of UN organizations, such as ILO, WHO and UNHCHR, as well as Indigenous Peoples and other civil society organizations. Lead lawyer engaged for over twenty years in the Multilateral Financial Institution Working Group on the Environment. Advised during the development of the new environmental and social standards for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

At the project level, worked in the Bank’s six geographic regions and in over fifty countries on full range of operations, particularly those with high corporate risk, such as Nam Theun 2 and Bujagali hydro facilities and the ESKOM thermal and renewable energy facility, and in land and natural resource projects with environmental and social impacts. Guided the Bank on policy compliance investigations and in relations and filings with the Independent Inspection Panel. Co-authored and managed projects that required analysis of regulatory issues and impediments related to carbon capture and storage; analysis of maritime boundaries and climate change, and in the analysis of human rights and international law. Lead legal advisor on many projects that led to the adoption of domestic environmental and natural resources law and regulations including for environmental impact assessment, forests, mining, fisheries and water resources.

Participated extensively in the drafting, development, and implementation of an array of sustainable development initiatives, including the founding of the Global Environment Facility, the launch and programs of the World Bank Climate Investment and Carbon Funds, GEF Conservation Trust Funds, Global Partnership for Oceans, the Global Tiger Initiative, and the launch in St. Petersburg of the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime.

Served as legal advisor to “IDA/IFC Secretariat Team” responsible for proposing harmonized World Bank Group (IFC/MIGA/World Bank) safeguard approach for public-private partnership projects. Helped launch first Bank-wide effort at “Green Procurement”, co-authoring study on domestic systems for green procurement. Helped lead Bank efforts toward transparency, by helping develop and managing grant to support “The Access Initiative for Rio Principle 10” on access to information and environmental justice, partnering with World Resources Institute and the Aarhus Convention Secretariat.

IUCN – INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE, Bonn, Germany

Director, IUCN Environmental Law Program, 1999 - 2001

Directed the worldwide environmental law program for IUCN, including serving as the head of the IUCN Environmental Law Center multinational staff of fifteen professionals and in its arrangements with the IUCN Environmental Law Commission.
Successfully developed proposals for, and prepared analysis, of Ramsar Convention at request of Convention Secretariat on issue of "urgent national interest" following Airbus site expansion controversy; and with the World Bank to compare environmental impact assessment policy and domestic law. Successfully negotiated several host country arrangements for IUCN offices.

Successfully drafted new forest law for the government of Cambodia while based in Phnom Penh. Helped establish partnership relationship with Chinese environmental law program at Wuhan University. Managed work relating to Global Invasive Species Program. Collaborated on initiatives with the Convention on Migratory Species and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington DC
Trial Attorney, Environmental Enforcement Section, 1990 - 1992

Represented the U.S Environmental Protection Agency and U.S Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in complex matters pertaining to pollution caused by pesticide manufacturers, cases brought against violations in fresh and coastal wetlands, and in precedent-setting claim against the City of Seattle for natural resource damages, particularly to fish species in Elliot Bay due to combined sewer overflow discharges. Received "Special Commendation for Outstanding Service".

Appointed as first Section Coordinator for international environmental enforcement issues, established to provide coordination and advice on transboundary and extraterritorial environmental law and pollution matters.

Appointed as member of U.S. inter-agency working group, working with U.S. Coast Guard on negotiations to negotiate proposed International Maritime Organization administered Hazardous and Noxious Substances Treaty.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, Nairobi, Kenya
Senior Programme Officer, Environmental Law Unit, 1989 - 1990

Coordinated the implementation of the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste with the London Convention and other international waste transport and disposal regimes. Coordinated and co-authored UN report on illegal traffic in hazardous wastes.

Drafted and arranged negotiations for the UNEP Regional Seas Conventions for the East Asian and South Asian Seas, managing negotiations among ten countries in Bangkok, Thailand. Assisted teams working on preparatory documentation for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

PIPER & MARBURY, Washington, D.C
Associate Attorney, 1986 - 1989

Advised on handling expert witness presentations concerning internationally known public health challenges in the "Love Canal" case. Successfully represented major Multinational Corporation and major health care facility in litigation brought by the U.S. EPA on matters concerning alleged hazardous waste disposal. Advised clients concerning their obligations under federal laws related to pesticides, air and water pollution.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Washington, D.C.
Trial Attorney, Environmental Defense Section, 1984 - 1986

Successfully represented the U.S. EPA in federal trial and appellate courts in litigation involving U.S. national wastewater construction grants programs, national water pollution requirements for gold mining operations in Alaska, and in air pollution actions brought by industry and citizen groups to challenge EPA decisions on State Implementation Plans. Successfully represented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' efforts to protect wetlands in Florida against quarrying operations.
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
State Environmental Advocate, Department of Attorney General, 1983 - 1984

Appointed to statutory position as State's lead environmental attorney, responsible for managing precedent-setting hazardous waste cases. Handled a wide range of extensive and contentious challenges pertaining to coastal resources permit applications before the Coastal Resources Management Council. Testified before State legislative committees concerning hazardous waste and marine-vessel traffic legislation.

Legal Counsel, Department of Environmental Management, 1979 – 1983

Advised team of technical experts responsible for preparation of Rhode Island's first comprehensive set of regulations for hazardous and solid waste management, air pollution control, coastal zone and freshwater wetlands management. Represented the state as lead attorney in high visibility litigation concerning cases against developers in hazardous and solid waste landfill permits and licensing cases, state freshwater and coastal wetlands, air, water and waste pollution, as well as challenges to state hunting and fishing programs. Argued fisheries case before the Rhode Island Supreme Court and other matters concerning state environmental issues.

Served as Administrative Hearing Officer to adjudicate and issue written opinions on highly contentious air pollution and hazardous waste facility permit hearings involving extensive local community opposition, stakeholder engagement, and media coverage.

EARLIER POSITION IN ACADEMIA

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Marine Affairs Graduate Program, 1982 - 1984
Adjunct Professor. Ocean and Coastal Zone Law.

EDUCATION


University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, B. A. History, 1975, cum laude.

MEMBERSHIPS

D.C Bar Association, twice elected to the Bar Committee Section on Energy and Environment; Bar Memberships of States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island; Member American Bar Association; former Chair of Committee on International Environmental Law, American Society of International Law; Environmental Law Commission of the International Union of Conservation of Nature. Appointed Senior Advisor of the International Environmental Law Committee of the ABA Section on International Law (August 2014—2015). Member American Society of International Law; Environmental Law Institute.

LANGUAGES

Spanish - intermediate - high-level; French - intermediate and ongoing studies; German - basic.

PERSONAL

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (For pre-2000, please see “Google Scholar”)

*Climate Standards after the Paris Agreement and the International Trade Regime*, (forthcoming in Sustainable Development Law and Policy Journal of American University Washington College of Law).


*Some Insights on the Role of the World Bank in Water and Agriculture Against the Backdrop of Climate Change*, ABA Section of International Law, International Environmental Law Committee Newsletter, Summer 2015

*Reducing Gaps to Thwart Pirates*, The Environmental Forum (Environmental Law Institute) September/October 2013, Note at 39 accompanying "The Challenges to Governance".

*The Path Toward Doha (The Durban Climate Platform)* The Environmental Forum (Environmental Law Institute), March/April 2012 at 36-41.


SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS and PRESENTATIONS (Post 2000)


Fostering Country-Driven Green Growth, Carbon Expo, Cologne, May 26, 2015 (with Global Green Growth Institute)

The Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions: Case Studies from Brazil and Mexico, World Bank, Washington DC, November 1, 2016


Climate Law and Governance, presentation during Paris Agreement UNFCCC COP negotiations for Climate Law and Governance Day, Paris, December 2015

Developments in International Environmental Law, American Bar Association Section on Environment, Fall Meetings, Chicago, November 11, 2015


The Role of Lawyers in Redressing Harm through International Accountability Mechanisms, ABA Section on International Law, Spring Meeting, April 2, 2014


Multilateral Environmental Agreements and International Financial Institutions, School of International Service, American University, February 2013.


Trade and Climate Change – Differentiated Responses, Georgetown University Trade Seminar for Professionals, Washington, October 2012

Environmental Health and Governance, World Health Summit, Berlin, October 2012

Comparative Environmental Law, Judicial Symposium, Rio de Janeiro Supreme Court, June 16, 2012


Accountability, Standards and Safeguards, Fifth RRI Dialogue on Forests, Governance and Climate Change, Washington DC, June 22, 2010


The Road to Rio and Beyond, Organization of American States, April 10, 2012

The World Bank and International Environmental Law, University of Texas Law School, Austin, February 12, 2012.

REDD+ and Biodiversity, Washington D.C. Bar Association, January 31, 2012

Emerging Issues in International Law and Policy on Climate Change, International Development Law Organization, Copenhagen University, December 12, 2009


“Global Environmental Governance – Challenges to Consensus”. European Union Conference on Global Environmental Governance, Keynote Presentation, (Georgetown Law School, June 2006)

Global Approaches to International Environmental Issues, University of Virginia Law School Environmental Law Colloquium “: Keynote Presentation (May 2006).

International Organizations and Responsibility under International Law, American University Law School (March 2006)

Corporate Social Responsibility- A view from the World Bank, Inogen Worldview Conference (Nov. 2005)

Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Private Sector, (OECD Meeting, Helsinki, July 2005)


Environmental Review in the Global Arena: Comparative Approaches to Transboundary Impacts (New York University Law School, April 2003)

Addressing Accountability Issues, (World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg September 2002, for Business Day Presentations)

Thank you Vadym. I’ve briefed Sally. She will reach out to our friend. I’ve talked to our other friend this morning.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 27, 2019, at 10:34 AM, Vadim Pozharskyi <v.pozharskyi.ukraine@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Karen and all,
Please, see a link to an official website of the President of Ukraine with news on the recent phone call between Ukraine’s President Zelensky and President Trump:

"Donald Trump is convinced that the new Ukrainian government will be able to quickly improve image of Ukraine, complete investigation of corruption cases, which inhibited the interaction between Ukraine and the USA"

Some Ukrainian media focused on this very quote and made it look as though President Trump was talking about Burisma/Biden situation.

Please, see links to correspondent publications:

"The GP’s office is investigating the case of a former Minister of Ukraine under Viktor Yanukovych, Mykola Zlochevsky and his firm Burisma Holdings on suspicion of obtaining illegal decisions on gas extraction, money laundering, and evasion of tax payments in particularly large amounts. The son of Trump’s opponent in the 2020 Presidential elections Joe Biden, Hunter was a member of the Board of Burisma Holdings. Trump’s personal attorney, Rudolf Giuliani, said that Biden had wrongfully pressured the Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko and the parliament in March 2016 to fire GP Viktor Shokin. The visit of Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky to the United States will take place prior to his visit to Warsaw on September 1, said Deputy Head of Office Mr Vadym Prystaiko."

Links to other publications on this are offered below:
March 8, 2016
Tuesday

TUESDAY

7 AM

Call Devon on Court Case

8

Gov. Bill Richardson NATO event (SK)
Wiley Rein, 1776 K Street NW

9

10

Jim Brooke of Ukraine Business Journal (SK); Skype: jimbrookeukraine or call +380 95-

11

FW: Telephone Call regarding Next Steps for Burisma
US Callers: 1-866-612-6838; Int'l callers: +1-310-372-7549; Conf Code: 855867; (BSS Hos
Karen Tramontano

12 PM

1

2

3

Bill Reinsch (SK)
BSS

4

5

Michelle

6

7:00pm - 7:30pm Judy and Jenny

Daily Task List

Arrange by: Due Date

Notes

Confidential Blue Star 0607
February 24, 2020

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Peters:

Pursuant to Rule 5(C) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I write to notify you of my intent to issue a subpoena for attendance and the production of records to Andrii Telizhenko, a former consultant at Blue Star Strategies (Blue Star).¹ This subpoena is in furtherance of the Committee’s ongoing work to address the many unanswered questions about potential conflicts of interest and the extent to which representatives of Burisma—including officials at Blue Star—used individuals with close personal connections to high level officials within the Obama administration to gain access to and potentially influence U.S. government agencies. This committee’s oversight work is being conducted jointly with the Senate Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary (the committees).

As you know, on December 6, 2019, the committees wrote to Mr. Telizhenko and requested the production of records and an interview about, among other topics, “whether certain officials within the Obama administration had actual or apparent conflicts of interest, or whether there was any other wrongdoing, because of Hunter Biden’s role in Rosemont Seneca and related entities, and as a board member of Burisma Holdings.”²

In response, Mr. Telizhenko confirmed his intention to “cooperate fully with the [committees’] investigation” and expressed his readiness “to provide any evidence” in his possession.³ During the course of our conversations with Mr. Telizhenko, he informed us that he worked as a consultant for Blue Star and he has responsive records from his time there, specifically, records relating to work the firm did for Burisma. However, because Mr. Telizhenko’s employment contract with Blue Star included a non-disclosure agreement (NDA),

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¹ According to Mr. Telizhenko, he was employed as a consultant at Blue Star Strategies from July 2016 through June 2017. Prior to his work at Blue Star Strategies, Mr. Telizhenko served as an official at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, D.C.
² Email from S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. & Governmental Affairs Staff to Andrii Telizhenko (Dec. 6, 2019) (on file with Comm.).
³ Email from Andrii Telizhenko to S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. & Governmental Affairs Staff (Dec. 10, 2019) (on file with Comm.).
he believes that he is unable to produce these records to the committees without being compelled to do so by a congressional subpoena.

These records are important to the committees’ investigation for several reasons. First, records indicate that Blue Star sought to leverage Hunter Biden’s role as a board member of Burisma to gain access to and potentially influence matters at the State Department. In a February 24, 2016, email with the subject line “Burisma,” a State Department official wrote:

Per our conversation, Karen Tramontano of Blue Star Strategies requested a meeting to discuss with [Under Secretary] Novelli [U.S. Government] remarks alleging Burisma (Ukrainian energy company) of corruption. She noted that two high profile U.S. citizens are affiliated with the company (including Hunter Biden as a board member). Tramontano would like to talk with U/S Novelli about getting a better understanding of how the U.S. came to the determination that the company is corrupt. According to Tramontano, there is no evidence of corruption, has been no hearing or process, and evidence to the contrary has not been considered. Would appreciate any background you may be able to provide on this issue and suggested TPs for U/S Novelli’s meeting.⁴

On March 1, 2016, Blue Star met with Under Secretary Catherine A. Novelli in an effort “to understand the State Department’s position regarding Burisma,” and in April 2016 Blue Star then reportedly met with Ukrainian prosecutors.⁵ According to what appears to be contemporaneous notes by one of those Ukrainian prosecutors during the April 2016 meeting, Blue Star apologized about allegedly “false information” promoted by the U.S. Government about the prosecutors’ handling of the investigation of Burisma.⁶

On December 3, 2019, Chairman Charles Grassley and I sent a letter to Blue Star requesting information and records on this matter.⁷ On December 18, 2019, Blue Star provided a written response to the committees and produced 83 pages of records showing interactions

⁶ Solomon, *These once-secret memos cast doubt on Joe Biden’s Ukraine story, supra* note 5.
between the firm and U.S. government agencies about Burisma.\textsuperscript{8} Many of these records are emails arranging meetings between Blue Star and U.S. officials at different agencies, including the Departments of State, Commerce, and Energy.

Second, Blue Star’s response to the committees was incomplete. Notably, although we asked Blue Star twice to identify its employees and contractors who worked on the Burisma matter, it never identified Mr. Telizhenko. Additionally, Mr. Telizhenko recently produced records to the committees that included some correspondence with Blue Star before he began his employment there (and, thus, not covered by his NDA) which indicate that Blue Star has records about its work on behalf of Burisma that are responsive to the committees’ requests that it has not produced.

For example, the committees requested from Blue Star “the dates and descriptions, including a list of attendees, of all meetings between Blue Star representatives and Ukrainian officials regarding Burisma.”\textsuperscript{9} This month, Mr. Telizhenko provided the committees a copy of a May 27, 2016, letter he received from a Blue Star official which was sent from John Buretta, Burisma’s U.S. attorney, to Yuriy Lutsenko, the General Prosecutor of Ukraine, requesting a meeting “on behalf of my client, Burisma Holdings Limited, and its owner Mykola Zlochevskiy.”\textsuperscript{10} Blue Star’s Chief Executive Officer, Karen Tramontano, noted to the committees that she worked “in collaboration with Burisma’s U.S. counsel, John Buretta.”\textsuperscript{11} The letter to Mr. Lutsenko and information about this meeting was not included in Blue Star’s production to the committees.

Mr. Telizhenko also provided a March 23, 2016, email from a Blue Star official to individuals at the Embassy of Ukraine, including Oksana Shulyar, offering to help schedule a meeting between a Ukrainian official and Denis McDonough, the then-Chief of Staff to President Obama.\textsuperscript{12} The committees did not receive this email or others related to it from Blue Star. It is unclear what the purpose of that meeting was and whether the meeting occurred. Mr. Telizhenko’s responsive records on this matter from his time working for Blue Star will enable the committees to ensure that they are receiving complete and thorough productions from other subjects of this investigation, as well as ensure that the committees are gathering all relevant information to determine what actually occurred.

The American people have a right to know how their government officials conducted official business, whether certain parties received special treatment, and whether any apparent or actual conflict of interest unduly influenced U.S. policy. Gathering all of the relevant information is necessary to determine not only whether any wrongdoing occurred, but also if wrongdoing did not occur. Accordingly, pursuant to the committee rules, this letter constitutes

\textsuperscript{8} See Letter from Karen Tramontano, supra note 5.
\textsuperscript{9} Letter from Chairman Ron Johnson and Chairman Charles E. Grassley, supra note 7.
\textsuperscript{10} Letter from John D. Buretta, Counsel for Burisma Holdings, Ltd., to Yuriy Lutsenko, Gen. Prosecutor of Ukraine (May 27, 2016) (on file with Comm).
\textsuperscript{11} Letter from Karen Tramontano, supra note 5.
\textsuperscript{12} Email from Sally Painter, Chief Operating Office, Blue Star Strategies, to Andrii Telizhenko et al., (Mar. 23, 2016) (on file with Comm.).
official notice that I intend to issue a subpoena to Andrii Telizhenko, a former consultant at Blue Star Strategies, for the records and attendance described in the enclosed schedule.

Sincerely,

Ron Johnson
Chairman

Enclosure
Schedule A

Please provide the following by March XX, 2020:

1. All records from your work for Blue Star Strategies (“Blue Star”) related to Burisma Holdings, including emails, memoranda, employment contract, or other electronically stored information (e.g., text messages).

2. Your attendance, at a date and time to be determined by the Chairman, to discuss the matters described in Request 1.