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United States Senate

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May 18, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr:

Thank you for your leadership and determination in providing relevant information to Congress, including the recent declassification of footnotes from the Office of the Inspector General report about the FBI's Crossfire Hurricane investigation.¹ The American people deserve transparency, and your tenacious work to bring previously hidden documents and conduct into the light is admirable and vitally important.

I understand your office is currently reviewing a January 20, 2017, email from former National Security Advisor Susan Rice.² In that email, Ambassador Rice summarized an Oval Office meeting with President Obama and other administration officials that occurred on January 5, 2017. A majority of Ambassador Rice's email was declassified but a portion of the email remains classified.³ The significance of that meeting is becoming increasingly apparent as more and more information is declassified. For these reasons, it is essential that Congress and the American people understand what occurred during that January 5, 2017, meeting and how it was later characterized by administration officials. The declassification of Ambassador Rice's email, in whole, will assist these efforts.

¹ Letter from Stephen E. Boyd, Assistant Attorney General, to Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Affairs, and Sen. Charles Grassley, Chairman, S. Comm. on Finance (Apr. 2, 2020), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Johnson%20Letter%20-%20Footnotes%20200402%20w%20att%20.pdf>; see also Letter from Richard Grenell, Acting Director of National Intelligence, to Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Affairs, and Sen. Charles Grassley, Chairman, S. Comm. on Finance (May 13, 2020), [https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2020-05-13%20ODNI%20to%20CEG%20RHJ%20\(Unmasking\).pdf](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2020-05-13%20ODNI%20to%20CEG%20RHJ%20(Unmasking).pdf).

² Letter from Charles E. Grassley and Lindsey O. Graham, S. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Amb. Susan Rice (Feb. 8, 2018), [https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2018-02-08%20CEG%20LG%20to%20Rice%20\(Russia%20Investigation%20Email\).pdf](https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2018-02-08%20CEG%20LG%20to%20Rice%20(Russia%20Investigation%20Email).pdf).

³ *Id.*

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I request you review and declassify the remaining portion of Ambassador Rice's January 20, 2017, email and provide it to my office. Thank you again for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Ron Johnson
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member