

**Opening Remarks of Ranking Member Gary C. Peters**  
**September 16, 2020 – Business Meeting**

Mr. Chairman – This is our third business meeting on your partisan investigations as we continue to face an unprecedented public health and economic emergency. Almost 200,000 Americans have died during this pandemic and nearly 40 million Americans have lost their jobs.

I am disappointed that our Committee is once again meeting to discuss the authorization of subpoenas instead of confronting the serious challenges facing Americans that our Committee has a responsibility to address with our full focus and resources.

Today we are voting on an unprecedented 40 subpoenas to further your investigations into Crossfire Hurricane and the unmasking of Lieutenant General Flynn’s name. These investigations are substantially identical to multiple previous investigations – including those by other committees of Congress with direct jurisdiction – the extensive work of the Justice Department Inspector General – and the Durham investigation.

Your own public comments – and your desire to reinvestigate these same matters demonstrates the alarming partisan nature of this investigation that is designed to influence the presidential election, which is now 48 days away.

As I said in June, issuing subpoenas should be a last resort – particularly when individuals on this list are either already cooperating or have not been given the opportunity for voluntary compliance.

In June, this Committee authorized subpoenas for 33 people. In the last three months, none of these people have been interviewed on the subject matter of those subpoenas. Yet, you now seek authority to depose seven new individuals on the same matters. It’s a partisan fishing expedition.

At our organizing business meeting, you made a commitment to maintain the longstanding tradition of this Committee in its pursuit of conducting serious oversight in a nonpartisan way. Now, at a moment of national emergency, it’s most important that we speak in one voice.

I’m asking you to stop the inappropriate use of our Committee resources and recommit to our primary focus - safeguarding our homeland security.