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Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

July 11, 2017

**CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC
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The Honorable Steven T. Walther
Chairman
U.S. Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Chairman Walther:

It has come to my attention that a complaint has been submitted to the Commission alleging that President Donald J. Trump's 2016 presidential campaign committee, Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., violated the Federal Election Campaign Act (based upon reporting contained in last night's *New York Times* article "Trump Jr. Was Told in Email of Russian Effort to Aid Campaign" by Matt Apuzzo, Jo Becker, Adam Goldman, and Maggie Haberman). Pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 30109, I ask that you perform an official investigation into the alleged violations of federal election and criminal laws.

51 U.S.C. 30121(a) states:

"It shall be unlawful for a foreign national, directly or indirectly, to make a contribution or donation of money or other thing of value, or to make an express or implied promise to make a contribution or donation in connection with a Federal, State, or local election."

Further:

"[It shall be unlawful for] a person to solicit, accept, or receive a contribution or donation described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) from a foreign national."

According to last night's *New York Times* article, "Before arranging a meeting with a Kremlin-connected Russian lawyer he believed would offer him compromising information about Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump Jr. was informed in an email that the material was part of a Russian government effort to aid his father's candidacy." This meeting was also attended by President Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, as well as then-campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, and occurred in Trump Tower – the headquarters of Donald J. Trump for President, Inc.

Based upon this reporting, not only did a foreign national “make an express or implied promise to make a contribution or donation [of a thing of value] in connection with a Federal, State, or local election” (purported damaging information on a political opponent), the President’s own campaign attempted to receive the contribution – in violation of 51 U.S.C. 20121.

Additionally, further reinforcing the claims of attempts to illegally contribute to a federal campaign (as well as attempts by the Trump campaign to receive such illegal contributions), just this afternoon Donald Trump, Jr. – via his personal Twitter account – released the full e-mail exchange referenced in the *New York Times* reports. In that e-mail exchange with Mr. Kushner and Mr. Manafort entitled “FW: Russia - Clinton - private and confidential”, the following appears:

“Emin just called and asked me to contact you with something very interesting. The Crown prosecutor of Russia met with his father Aras this morning and in their meeting offered to provide the Trump campaign with some official documents and information that . . . would be very useful to your father. This is very high level and sensitive information but is part of Russia and its government’s support for Mr. Trump.”

Clearly, unacceptable encroachments upon the integrity of an American presidential election were not only offered by a foreign national, but were sought to be received by the Trump campaign. These acts are punishable under federal law, and they have been brought to your attention. Public reporting on this meeting is clear, as is the newly released e-mail exchange by Donald Trump, Jr. Respectfully, I urge you to perform the investigation into this matter required by federal law as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Caroline C. Hunter, Vice Chair of the FEC
The Honorable Lee E. Goodman, FEC Commissioner
The Honorable Matthew S. Peterson, FEC Commissioner
The Honorable Ellen L. Weintraub, FEC Commissioner
The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions, Attorney General of the United States
The Honorable Rod J. Rosenstein, Deputy Attorney General of the United States
Mr. Robert S. Mueller, Special Counsel – U.S. Department of Justice
The Honorable Andrew G. McCabe, Acting Director of the FBI