

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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November 15, 2017

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has now been 23 days since Republican Committee Member Ron DeSantis went on national television to announce that the Oversight Committee is investigating “explosive” new evidence from a former confidential informant allegedly demonstrating how former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton masterminded a plan with then-FBI Director Robert Mueller to orchestrate the unanimous decision in 2010 by all nine member agencies of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) regarding Uranium One.¹

Although this news became public more than three weeks ago, you have refused repeated requests to make this former informant available to Democrats, raising serious questions about why you are concealing this individual from Members of the Oversight Committee who are supposed to be investigating this person’s claims.

More than a week ago, on November 7, 2017, I wrote a letter to you requesting access to the former informant and raising concerns that you launched your latest partisan investigation of Secretary Clinton with no consultation with Democrats, despite the fact that our Committee already investigated this deal in 2015. I also raised concerns that you rushed to launch your investigation directly after President Trump initiated his own Twitter campaign just days earlier to distract from the ongoing Russia investigations of his campaign.²

You have ignored my request for access to the former informant, and you have provided no information about when, if ever, you intend to bring this individual before the Committee. As a result, we do not know who this former informant is, where this former informant is from,

¹ *America’s News HQ*, Fox News (Oct. 22, 2017) (online at <http://video.foxnews.com/v/5621831993001>).

² Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings to Chairman Trey Gowdy, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Nov. 7, 2017) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2017-11-7.%20EEC%20to%20TG%20re.Uranium%20one.pdf>).

whether the FBI substantiated this former informant's claims, or whether this former informant is credible.

We also have no basis to evaluate the claims made by Rep. DeSantis about the former informant's allegations. For example, Rep. DeSantis stated:

We have the money that went to Bill Clinton for the speech, the half a million dollars. Millions of dollars to the Foundation from sources connected with Uranium One. And then you have the approval of the deal on the CFIUS board, which Hillary Clinton was a member of, in 2010. So you do have the quid, you have the quo. This informant, I believe, would be able to link those two together.³

These recycled claims have been debunked repeatedly by numerous fact checking organizations, including the *Washington Post* Fact Checker⁴ and PolitiFact.⁵

In fact, just yesterday, *Fox News* anchor Shepard Smith debunked these claims again during a lengthy fact-checking segment, explaining:

The accusation is predicated on the charge that Secretary Clinton approved the sale. She did not. A committee of nine evaluated the sale, the President approved the sale, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and others had to offer permits, and none of the uranium was exported for use by the U.S. to Russia. That is Uranium One. ... It was unanimous, not a Hillary Clinton approval.⁶

He continued:

Most of those donations were from one man, Frank Giustra, the founder of the company in Canada. He gave \$131 million to the Clinton Foundation. But Giustra says he sold his stake in the company back in 2007. That is three years before the uranium/Russia deal and a year and a half before Hillary Clinton became Secretary of State.⁷

³ *America's News HQ*, Fox News (Oct. 22, 2017) (online at <http://video.foxnews.com/v/5621831993001>).

⁴ *The Facts Behind Trump's Repeated Claim About Hillary Clinton's Role in the Uranium One Deal*, Washington Post (Oct. 26, 2016) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2016/10/26/the-facts-behind-trumps-repeated-claim-about-hillary-clintons-role-in-the-russian-uranium-deal/) (awarding the claim "Four Pinocchios").

⁵ *Donald Trump Inaccurately Suggests Clinton Got Paid to Approve Russia Uranium Deal*, PolitiFact (June 30, 2016) (online at www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/jun/30/donald-trump/donald-trump-inaccurately-suggests-clinton-got-pai/#atfhead) (rating the claim as "mostly false").

⁶ *Shepard Smith Reporting*, Fox News (Nov. 14, 2017) (online at <http://video.foxnews.com/v/5646426075001>).

⁷ *Id.* See also *Fox News Anchor Destroys Conspiracy Theory About Hillary Clinton and Uranium One*, Newsweek (Nov. 15, 2017) (online at www.newsweek.com/fox-news-host-destroys-conspiracy-theory-about-hillary-clinton-and-uranium-one-711762); *Fox News's Shepard Smith Debunks His Network's Favorite Hillary Clinton 'Scandal,' Infuriates Viewers*, Washington Post (Nov. 15, 2017) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2017/11/15/fox-news-shepherd-smith-debunks-his-networks-hillary-clinton-scandal-story-infuriates-viewers/?utm_term=.f2a5172c0461).

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It appears that the only thing that has changed since these claims were first debunked is that you now have an unidentified "confidential informant" who claims to have uncovered a "bribery scheme" in which Secretary Clinton was paid off to effect the unanimous approval of the Uranium One deal. But you have refused for more than three weeks to make this informant available to Democratic Members of the Committee conducting this investigation.

This is not a responsible way to conduct an investigation. I do not know why you are hiding this former informant, despite the fact that the FBI has authorized the individual to speak to both Republicans and Democrats. However, your refusal to allow Members of our Committee to speak with this individual and to evaluate this individual's claims raises serious questions about the credibility of the Committee's investigation.

For these reasons, I respectfully renew my request for access to the former informant as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member