

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

March 31, 2022

The Honorable David Ferriero
Archivist of the United States
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Mr. Ferriero:

On March 15, 2022, the Russian government announced sanctions on President Biden, members of the Biden Administration, Hillary Clinton, and the President’s son, Hunter Biden.¹ While “it’s unlikely many top Democratic officials will be affected by those measures[,]”² it is the inclusion of Hunter Biden—decidedly *not* a “Democratic official”—that raises serious questions. The nation’s adversaries apparently see the President’s son as a pressure point to exploit. Additionally, his inclusion on the list is the latest evidence that Hunter Biden has indeed engaged in business schemes with our adversaries. Therefore, we request information the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) possesses regarding Hunter Biden’s dealings in Russia and Ukraine.

The Russian government’s sanctioning of Hunter Biden and, notably, none of the other Biden children, raises questions about his connections to Russia. The payment of \$3.5 million to Hunter Biden or a company associated with him by Elena Baturina, a Russian businesswoman and former wife of former Mayor of Moscow Yuri Luzhkov, has raised the attention of the United States Senate and demonstrates Hunter Biden’s previous dealings with the Russian political class.³ Hunter Biden’s connections throughout the Russian sphere of influence have now become especially relevant in the fast-moving and developing Russian war in Ukraine. If the Russian government is attempting to influence American policy in Ukraine by exploiting Hunter Biden’s connection with his father—the President of the United States—the American people deserve to know it.

¹ Jeff Stein, *Russia’s sanctions on Biden, Hillary Clinton and others mocked by White House*, WASH. POST (Mar. 16, 2022).

² *Id.*

³ Hunter Biden, Burisma, and Corruption: The Impact on U.S. Government Policy and Related Concerns, Maj. Staff Report, S. Comm on Homeland Sec. & Gov. Affairs and S. Comm. on Finance (2020), p. 69, *available at* https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/HSGAC_Finance_Report_FINAL.pdf.

The Biden family has for decades profited from Joe Biden's positions of public trust.⁴ Hunter Biden has particularly benefitted from his father's success in politics, from managing a Ukrainian energy conglomerate,⁵ to selling cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC),⁶ to connecting his father to Kazakhstani oil oligarchs,⁷ and preventing a Romanian real estate tycoon's conviction for bribery charges.⁸

It is concerning that Hunter Biden has no demonstrable qualifications to manage a Ukrainian energy company, facilitate the Chinese-backed sale of a DRC strategic metal mine, broker a deal for an oil pipeline in Kazakhstan, or provide counsel on the intricacies of Romanian criminal law. Indeed, Hunter Biden at age 52 has recently found a career in the arts as an amateur painter selling his work for up to half a million dollars per composition⁹—an industry Congress has deemed rife with grift, often by Russian oligarchs.¹⁰ In fact, just last week the *New York Times Daily* podcast intimated that Russian oligarchs continue to buy art in New York City regardless of the sanctions.¹¹ If not for the career of Hunter Biden's father, the President of the United States, it is unlikely that he would have had the opportunity to engage in any of these highly compensated activities. Republicans on the Oversight Committee have one fundamental question: Why is Hunter Biden on Russia's sanction list? Is it his art dealings or any number of other international business schemes?

Hunter Biden's dealings have not gone unnoticed, and a Department of Justice (DOJ) probe begun under the Obama Administration has expanded to include a wide variety of potential violations and crimes. According to the *New York Times*, Hunter Biden is currently under investigation by DOJ for possible violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act and possible criminal tax evasion and money laundering.¹² While then-Democrat presidential nominee Joe Biden stated that "I have never spoken to my son about his overseas business

⁴ See, e.g., Letter from H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform Republicans to Dana Remus, Counsel to the President, White House Counsel's Office (Jul. 14, 2021), available at <https://republicans-oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Letter-on-Biden-Inc.-WHCO-7142151.pdf>.

⁵ *Hunter Biden: What was he doing in China and Ukraine?*, BBC NEWS (Apr. 6, 2021).

⁶ Michael Forsythe, Eric Lipton and Dionne Searcey, *How Hunter Biden's Firm Helped Secure Cobalt for the Chinese*, NY Times (Nov. 20, 2021); see also Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Hon. David Ferriero, Archivist, Nat'l Archives & Records Admin. (Jan. 19, 2022), available at <https://republicans-oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-01-19-Letter-to-NARA-Hunter-Biden-Cobalt-Mine.pdf>.

⁷ Ebony Bowden, *Photo shows Joe Biden meeting Hunter's alleged business partner from Kazakhstan*, N.Y. POST (Oct. 20, 2020).

⁸ Samuel Chamberlain, *Romanian tycoon hired Hunter Biden, ex-FBI chief to help him avoid jail: emails*, N.Y. POST (Jun. 7, 2021).

⁹ Matt Viser, *Deal of the art: White House grapples with ethics of Hunter Biden's pricey paintings*, WASH. POST (Jul. 8, 2021).

¹⁰ The Art Industry and U.S. Policies that Undermine Sanctions, Staff Report, S. Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations (2020), available at <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2020-07-29%20PSI%20Staff%20Report%20-%20The%20Art%20Industry%20and%20U.S.%20Policies%20that%20Undermine%20Sanctions.pdf>.

¹¹ *Will Sanctioning Oligarchs Change the War*, The Daily, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 22, 2022), <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/22/podcasts/the-daily/russian-oligarchs-sanctions-ukraine-war.html?showTranscript=1>

¹² Katie Benner, Kenneth P. Vogel and Michael S. Schmidt, *Hunter Biden Paid Tax Bill, but Broad Federal Investigation Continues*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 16, 2022).


dealings,”¹³ this appears not to be true. The evidence is now clear that not only did Joe Biden talk to his son about his overseas business dealings, but he also met with his son’s associates.¹⁴ The misleading statements by President Biden are even more troubling now that Russia has singled out Hunter Biden on its sanctions list instead of any of the other Biden children.

Given Hunter Biden’s foreign business relationships in Ukraine and Russia and the current international landscape, we are concerned about whether Hunter Biden continues to profit off his status as President Biden’s son as well as whether foreign adversaries may be attempting to exploit questionable business dealings. NARA may possess documents relevant to this investigation from then-Vice President Biden’s tenure. As such, please provide the following documents to Committee Republicans no later than April 14, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between the Executive Office of the President or Office of the Vice President and members or associates of the Biden family referring or relating to Russia or Ukraine from January 20, 2009 to January 20, 2017;
2. All documents and communications from or within the Executive Office of the President or Office of the Vice President referring to Elena Baturina or Yuri Luzhkov from January 20, 2009 to January 20, 2017;
3. All documents and communications in the custody of NARA referring or relating to Hunter Biden and Ukraine or Hunter Biden and Russia; and
4. All documents and communications between then-Vice President Biden’s office and any State Department employee referring or relating to Hunter Biden and his business dealings in Russia and/or Ukraine.

To ask any follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

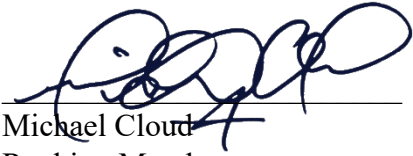

Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations

¹³ Aamer Madhani, *Biden: I never talked to son Hunter about overseas business dealings*, USA TODAY (Sept. 21, 2019).

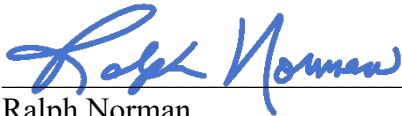
¹⁴ *Supra*, n. 7; see also, Andrew Duehren and James T. Areddy, *Hunter Biden’s Ex-Business Partner Alleges Father Knew About Venture*, WALL ST. J. (Oct. 23, 2020).



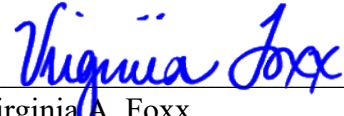
Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



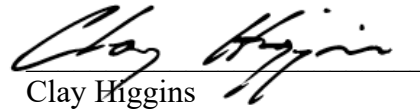
Ralph Norman
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Subcommittee on Environment



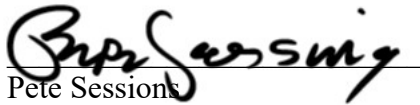
Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



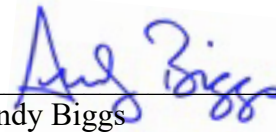
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



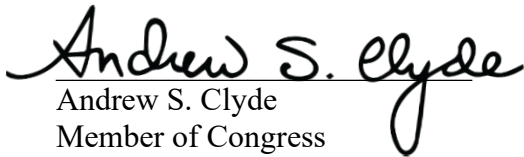
Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



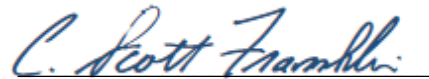
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment