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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

October 1, 2019

The Honorable Rick Perry  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Perry:

I write to determine the details and circumstances around your interactions with Ukraine President Zelensky and other Ukrainian officials, particularly relating to your trip to President Zelensky's inauguration in May 2019. Given your role as the leader of the official United States delegation to the inauguration, and the White House's recent release of evidence that President Trump requested that Ukraine's government investigate his domestic political opponent, your insight into the U.S. delegation's trip is of particular interest to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

According to a whistleblower complaint addressed to Congress, Vice President Pence planned to lead the May 2019 delegation to Ukraine, but, after President Trump instructed the Vice President not to, you led the delegation instead.<sup>1</sup> You also attended a dinner with President Zelensky in June 2019.<sup>2</sup> According to the complaint, likely around the time of your trip it was "made clear" to Ukrainian officials that President Trump did not want to meet with President Zelensky until Trump saw how Zelensky "'chose to act' in office."<sup>3</sup> According to the readout of your travels, you met with Ukraine's President, Prime Minister, and head of parliament.<sup>4</sup>

President Trump's phone call and the allegations in the whistleblower complaint raise serious questions about the messages that were communicated on behalf of President Trump to the government of Ukraine. To that end, and to assist the Committee in fulfilling its oversight role of U.S. foreign policy, I request that you answer the following:

1. Who requested that you to lead the delegation to Ukraine in May 2019, when did they make the request, and what reason were you given for the request?
2. Were you aware that Vice President Pence had cancelled his plans to travel to President Zelensky's inauguration? If so, were you aware of the reason?

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<sup>1</sup> Whistleblower Complaint to the Chairmen of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Select Committee on Intelligence, Aug. 12, 2019, Classified Appendix at 1-2.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Mission to the European Union, USEU Dinner, June 4, 2019, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/us2eu/48003307277/in/photostream/>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Readout of Secretary Perry's Delegation Visit to the Inauguration of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Department of Energy, May 21, 2019, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/readout-secretary-perry-s-delegation-visit-inauguration-ukrainian-president-volodymyr>.

3. Did President Trump ever ask you to convey to President Zelensky, other Ukrainian officials, or any other individuals, President Trump's desire for assistance in investigating one of his political opponents or their family members, or unsubstantiated theories related to Ukraine's involvement in the 2016 U.S. election? Did you ever convey such a request?
4. During your May 2019 trip, or during any other interaction with President Zelensky, Ukrainian officials, or any other individuals, did you convey any messages regarding "corruption" in Ukraine? If so, what did you convey?
5. Are you aware of any records of communications between the President and foreign leaders that were stored on the National Security Council Intelligence Collaboration Environment (NICE)? If so, please provide a detailed list of such records.

Please respond to the above questions no later than October 4, 2019. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Menendez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Menendez  
Ranking Member