

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 24, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretaries Mnuchin and Pompeo:

We write in the wake of widespread public reports about the renewed concerns and conclusions of the US Intelligence Community that the government of the Russian Federation continues to engage in widespread, systematic election interference designed to change the outcome of the 2020 Presidential elections. In light of this information, we urge you to immediately and forcefully impose sanctions on the government of the Russian Federation, any Russian actors determined to be responsible for such interference, and those acting on their behalf or providing material or financial support for these election interference efforts.

Congress has provided you with a range of sanction tools, including those in the 2017 Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA, P.L. 115-44), and it is long past time for the administration to send a direct, powerful and unmistakable message to President Putin: the US will respond immediately and forcefully to continuing election interference by the government of the Russian Federation and its surrogates, to punish, deter and substantially increase the economic and political costs of such interference.

The diverse malicious cyber and other sanctions authorities provided for in CAATSA, coupled with the sanctions provided for in the 2016 Executive Order 13694 (related to those engaging in malicious cyber activities against the US) and the annex to EO 13694 (providing for sanctions against a broad range of Russian intelligence actors including the GRU, the FSB, its Special Technology Center in St. Petersburg, and others); Executive Order 13848 (related to election interference) and other authorities rooted in the powerful International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA, 50 U.S.C. §1701) provide a broad range of hard-hitting sanctions tools for such a sanctions targeting effort. These IEEPA authorities are designed to enable the Administration to target precisely these kinds of extraordinary threats to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. There is virtually no national security threat more serious than that posed by those who would systematically undermine confidence in, and the effective operation of, our democratic elections.

We urge you to immediately draw upon the reported conclusions of the Intelligence Community to identify and target for sanctions all those determined to be responsible for ongoing elections interference, including President Putin, the government of the Russian Federation, any Russian actors determined to be directly responsible, and those acting on their behalf or providing

material or financial support for their efforts. Doing anything less would be an abdication of your responsibility to protect and defend the US from this serious threat to our national security, and to the integrity of our electoral process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer, Democratic Leader



Sherrod Brown, Ranking Member

Committee on Banking, Housing  
and Urban Affairs



Robert Menendez, Ranking Member

Committee on Foreign Relations