

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ**

7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

May 17, 2017

The Honorable Rod Rosenstein  
Deputy Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein:

As you may know, in December of last year, I wrote to then-outgoing Attorney General Lynch to request that a Special Counsel be named to investigate Russia's involvement in the 2016 elections. I reiterated this call after the February resignation of General Flynn from the position of National Security Advisor and, again, when Attorney General Sessions recused himself from the Department's investigation into these matters.

Today, I am resubmitting my request to you. As you are aware, under the Code of Federal Regulations, the Deputy Attorney General has the authority to take this step<sup>1</sup>. I urge you to do so expeditiously.

Like many Americans, I was profoundly troubled by the dismissal of FBI Director James Comey, last week. For many Americans, the timing of Director Comey's removal calls into question the credibility and effectiveness of the Bureau's ongoing investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 election and potential ties between the Trump campaign and Russia.

As of this week, there are media reports that, when the President met with Russian officials – the very day after firing Director Comey – he revealed highly sensitive information.<sup>2</sup> As of last night, it is also being reported that, as early as February, the President personally requested Director Comey cease his investigation into General Flynn.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 28 CFR § 600.1 (2016)

<sup>2</sup> Greg Miller and Greg Jaffe. *Trump revealed highly classified information to Russian foreign minister and ambassador*. Washington Post, May 15, 2017. Available at: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-revealed-highly-classified-information-to-russian-foreign-minister-and-ambassador/2017/05/15/530c172a-3960-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69\\_story.html?pushid=591a17b4fdd5491d0000004b&tid=notifi\\_push\\_breaking-news&utm\\_term=.20cc625d7229](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-revealed-highly-classified-information-to-russian-foreign-minister-and-ambassador/2017/05/15/530c172a-3960-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69_story.html?pushid=591a17b4fdd5491d0000004b&tid=notifi_push_breaking-news&utm_term=.20cc625d7229)

<sup>3</sup> Michael S. Schmidt. *Comey Memo Says Trump Asked Him to End Flynn Investigation*. New York Times, May 16, 2017. Available at: [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/16/us/politics/james-comey-trump-flynn-russia-investigation.html?emc=edit\\_na\\_20170516&nl=breaking-news&nid=57069763&ref=cta](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/16/us/politics/james-comey-trump-flynn-russia-investigation.html?emc=edit_na_20170516&nl=breaking-news&nid=57069763&ref=cta)

These rapidly changing and alarming events make it all the more important that any investigation into Russia's involvement in our election avoid even the appearance of political interference. Director Comey's dismissal effectively casts doubt on any inquiry reporting through the conventional DOJ chain of command.

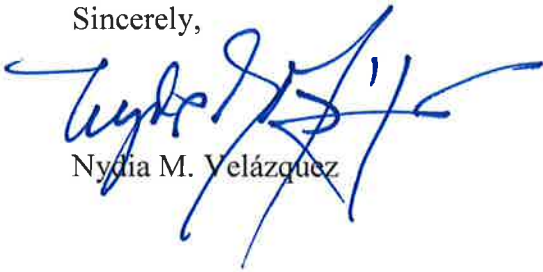
The authority to appoint a Special Counsel exists precisely for situations like this. Under the Code, a Special Counsel can be appointed when there are "extraordinary circumstances" and "it would be in the public interest to appoint an outside Special Counsel to assume responsibility for the matter."<sup>4</sup> Any objective observer would conclude the current state of affairs meets this standard.

Finally, I cannot stress enough that the individual selected for this role exhibit impeccable, unassailable credentials of nonpartisanship and impartiality. This will be vital for the Counsel to conduct its work effectively and retain the American people's confidence.

During your decades in public service, you have consistently earned a reputation for fairness and objective application of the law. You now have an important opportunity to assure the American people that a fair and thorough investigation is being conducted.

I urge you to exercise this prerogative immediately and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nydia M. Velázquez", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Nydia M. Velázquez

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<sup>4</sup> 28 CFR § 600.1 (2016)