

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

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April 5, 2022

Mr. Hunter Biden
c/o Christopher J. Clark
Latham & Watkins
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Re: Record Preservation

Dear Mr. Biden:

We write to request that you immediately preserve all records and materials relating to your international business dealings during the Obama-Biden Administration, your abandoned laptop and its contents, and media inquiries and communications related to these topics.

On October 14, 2020, the *New York Post* published a report detailing how you used the position and influence of your father, now-President Joe Biden, for personal gain, with his apparent awareness.¹ This article raised doubts about President Biden's denial of ever speaking to you about your international business dealings.² The *Post* reported on an email in which a Ukrainian businessman urged you to "use your influence to convey a message / signal, etc. to stop what we consider to be politically motivated actions."³ In another email, the same businessman thanked you for arranging a meeting with your father, then-Vice President Biden, calling it "an honor and pleasure."⁴ The *Post* reported that these emails came from a laptop belonging to you that you abandoned in a Delaware computer shop.⁵

At the time of the *New York Post* story, the Biden campaign and prominent Washington insiders falsely dismissed the contents of the story as the product of Russian intelligence. On October 19, 2020, Jen Psaki, now Press Secretary to the President, tweeted a *Politico* article about an open letter from former intelligence officials that falsely categorized the *Post* story as

¹ Emma-Jo Morris & Gabrielle Fonrouge, *Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad*, N.Y. Post, Oct. 14, 2020.

² E.g. Nick Givas, *Joe Biden again denies speaking to son about Ukrainian business dealings*, Fox News, Oct. 10, 2019.

³ Morris & Fonrouge, *supra* note 1.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

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Russian disinformation.⁶ Three days later, before the final presidential debate, Kate Bedingfield, deputy campaign manager for the Biden campaign, said that questions about your abandoned laptop would “amplify[] Russian misinformation.”⁷ During the debate, Vice President Biden similarly dismissed concerns about your international business dealings, calling scrutiny on the arrangement part of a “Russian plan.”⁸ You likewise suggested the *New York Post*’s reporting could be Russian disinformation as recently as April 2021. In an interview with CBS Sunday Morning about the authenticity of the abandoned laptop, you stated: “Of course, there could be a laptop stolen from me. There could be that I was hacked. It could be that it was Russian intelligence.”⁹

Contrary to the assertions of the Biden campaign and prominent Democrats, the contents of the *New York Post*’s reporting have never been refuted. Contrariwise, eighteen months after the *Post*’s story, other news outlets are finally confirming the *Post*’s reporting. On March 16, 2022, the *New York Times* reported on the contents of records from your abandoned laptop, explaining the emails were obtained “from a cache of files that appears to have come from a laptop abandoned by Mr. Biden in a Delaware repair shop” and that the documents “were authenticated by people familiar with them.”¹⁰ The *Times* reported on one email in which you invited foreign business associates to “dinner at a Washington restaurant where Vice President Biden would stop by.”¹¹ On March 30, 2022, the *Washington Post* published a similar article that also confirmed the *New York Post*’s original reporting.¹²

Congress has an obligation to examine these facts to understand the sufficiency of existing federal statutes and to assess the Executive Branch’s execution of these statutes. Material preservation is essential for us to conduct a comprehensive review of these matters. You should construe this preservation notice as an instruction to preserve all documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, that is or may be potentially responsive to this congressional inquiry. This instruction includes all electronic messages sent using official and personal accounts or devices, including records created using text messages, phone-based message applications, or encryption software. For purposes of this request, “preserve” includes taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, mutation, or negligent or reckless handling that could render the information incomplete or inaccessible. These steps include preserving all compilations of documents that have already

⁶ Tweet by Jen Psaki, Twitter.com (Oct. 19, 2020, 10:45 p.m.), <https://twitter.com/jrpsaki/status/1318382779659411458>; Natasha Bertrand, *Hunter Biden story is Russian disinfo, dozens of former intel officials say*, Politico, Oct. 19, 2020.

⁷ Jonathan Easley, *Trump expected to bring Hunter Biden’s former business partner to debate*, The Hill, Oct. 22, 2020.

⁸ Deirdre Shesgreen, “Nothing was unethical”: Joe Biden defends Hunter Biden under pressure from Trump in debate, USA Today, Oct. 22, 2020.

⁹ CBS Sunday Morning (CBS television broadcast Apr. 4, 2021).

¹⁰ Katie Brenner et al., *Hunter Biden paid tax bill, but broad federal investigation continues*, N.Y. Times, Mar. 16, 2022.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Matt Viser et al., *Inside Hunter Biden’s multimillion-dollar deals with a Chinese energy company*, Wash. Post, Mar. 30, 2022.

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been gathered in response to other government or litigation requests, even if copies of individual documents or materials may still exist elsewhere in the organization.

Thank you for your cooperation in this critical oversight matter.

Sincerely,



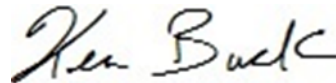
Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual
Property, and the Internet



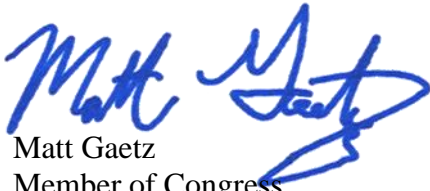
Jim Jordan
Ranking Member



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



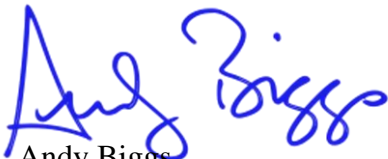
Ken Buck
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Antitrust,
Commercial and Administrative Law



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



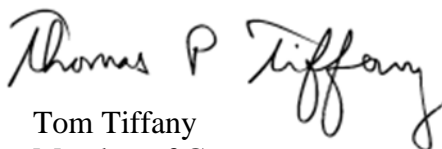
Mike Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Constitution,
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties



Andy Biggs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
and Homeland Security



Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration and
Citizenship



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

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Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress


Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler
Chairman