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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

July 16, 2026

The Honorable William J. Pulte
Acting Director
Office of the Director of National Intelligence

The Honorable John Ratcliffe
Director
Central Intelligence Agency

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

General Joshua M. Rudd
Director
National Security Agency

Dear Acting Director Pulte, Director Ratcliffe, Director Patel, and General Rudd:

Public reporting indicates that the President intends to declassify and publicly release intelligence this Thursday purporting to reveal foreign plans to interfere in the 2020 election.

If true, this has the hallmark of another transparent attempt to relitigate debunked 2020 election conspiracies, sow doubt ahead of the 2026 midterms, and potentially lay the groundwork for an unprecedented assertion of federal power over the conduct of elections. The 2020 election was the most scrutinized in American history. It was audited, recounted, and litigated in multiple courts. The result is not in doubt.

Foreign threats to elections and foreign malign influence are real concerns that the Intelligence Community should prioritize. Indeed, earlier this month, House Intelligence Committee Democrats wrote to the Acting DNI to note that the Intelligence Community is nearly two months late in delivering a statutorily required report on foreign threats to the upcoming midterm elections. It is concerning that at a time when the Intelligence Community is not complying with its legal responsibilities to protect our upcoming elections, it appears focused instead on discrediting past elections without evidence.

The facts of the 2020 election have long been settled. The Intelligence Community assessed in a declassified Intelligence Community Assessment from 2021 that, “We have no indications that any foreign actor attempted to interfere in the 2020 US elections by altering any technical aspect of the voting process.” No intelligence to the contrary has ever been provided to the Committee, despite repeated requests for updates. This declassified finding is backed by detailed intelligence in a classified version of the same assessment, including a version that remains restricted to the Gang of 8. Notably, this Intelligence

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Community Assessment was prepared during President Trump's first term in office and coordinated by then-Director of National Intelligence Ratcliffe.

The President is within his authority to declassify intelligence, but if he does so in a way that is intended to mislead Americans about the most basic foundation of our democracy and that may compromise sources and methods, it is incumbent on you to stand up for the agencies you lead. Before any intelligence is publicly disclosed, it should be coordinated with all relevant Intelligence Community elements, reviewed under applicable analytic tradecraft standards, and provided to the congressional intelligence committees.

We remind you that you are statutorily obligated to keep the Committee fully and currently informed, a requirement that should include notification of new intelligence related to election influence or interference as well as any significant declassification. A reckless effort to weaponize intelligence to support false claims about election security will have a lasting and destructive impact on the relationship between the Intelligence Community and its oversight committees, as well as on the trust of the American people. We sincerely hope you do not go down that road.

Sincerely,



James A. Himes
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Eric “Rick” Crawford, Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence