The Honorable Robert Kolasky  
Acting Deputy Under Secretary  
National Protections and Programs Directorate  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528  

Dear Acting Deputy Under Secretary Kolasky:

Last month, the Department of Homeland Security reportedly notified election officials in 21 states that Russian government hackers had targeted those states during the 2016 election.1 We are writing to request copies of these notifications and additional documents, as well as a briefing from top Department officials on these matters.

The Department’s notifications to these states came nearly a year after the election and three months after the Department publicly disclosed that individuals connected with the Russian government sought to hack voter registration files and public election sites in 21 states.2 They also came after numerous other reports that Russia engaged in a multifaceted campaign to disrupt the 2016 election, including widespread cyber-attacks on state-election infrastructure systems.3

The Department’s recent convening of the Government Coordinating Council for the Election Infrastructure Subsector, with representatives from the Election Assistance Commission, the National Association of Secretaries of State and state and local election officials, will hopefully facilitate the sharing of information and expertise.4

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We request that you produce, by October 31, 2017, copies of the notifications sent by the Department to these 21 states, as well as all accompanying materials relating to Russian government-backed attempts to hack state election systems.

We also request a briefing from appropriate Department officials within the same timeframe on the following issues:

(1) the types of voting equipment that were attacked;
(2) the timeline by which the Department provided information to these states and the reasons for not sharing additional information sooner;
(3) services and trainings offered to states to detect and prevent cyber-attacks;
(4) plans to work with states to detect and prevent future cyber-attacks; and
(5) the operational plans and goals of the newly convened Election Infrastructure Coordinating Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Daehn with the Democratic Committee staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform

Robin Kelly
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Information Technology

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Will Hurd, Chairman
Subcommittee on Information Technology