

Holding Power Accountable

U.S. Department of Justice
Special Counsel's Office
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May 29, 2019

Dear Special Counsel Mueller,

On behalf of Common Cause's 1.2 million members, we thank you for your longstanding service to our country and for the comprehensive investigation you conducted and the report you wrote throughout the past two years entitled "[Report on the Investigation into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election](#)." At your press conference this morning, you indicated that you are hesitant about publicly testifying about your report before Congress. However, we strongly believe it is in the public interest for you to appear publicly before Congress to answer questions about your report.

All Americans deserve to hear, in your words, how you reached certain conclusions in your report. The Mueller report is complex and dense, and few people have time to read significant portions of it, let alone the entire document. Unfortunately, the President and many others have distorted and misrepresented what is in the report. It is in the best interest of our country for you to appear before Congress in public and let them hear in your own words what you found in your investigation.

Given that Attorney General William Barr apparently continues to misrepresent this report and some of its underlying conclusions, we strongly encourage you to openly testify before Congress to discuss the investigation and your report. In your March 27th letter to Attorney General Barr, you state that his summary "did not fully capture the context, nature and substance" of your full 448-page report. You state that "[t]here is now public confusion about critical aspects of the results of our investigation, [which] threatens to undermine a central purpose for which the Department appointed the Special Counsel: to assure full public confidence in the outcome of the investigation." We completely agree with your assessment. To assure full public confidence in the investigation, we hope you will publicly testify before Congress this summer.

Some of the questions that we hope you will publicly answer include:

- Why did you decide not to pursue an in-person interview with President Trump?
- Throughout the course of your investigation, did you ever find any potentially compromising information that Russia or Russian officials have about President Trump?
- When analyzing whether the Trump campaign illegally coordinated with Russians in election interference activities, why did you apply a definition of "coordination" requiring an "agreement" between the campaign and Russian government when Congress rejected such an "agreement" requirement in federal campaign finance law definition of "coordination"? Would application of the longstanding campaign finance law standard for "coordination" have led to different conclusions in your investigation?
- Are you aware if Attorney General Barr, Matthew Whitaker, or any other Department of Justice official inappropriately shared information about your investigation with anyone at the White House?



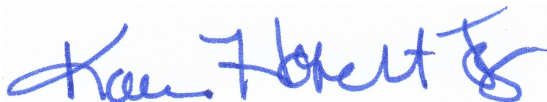
- Why did you decide to conclude your investigation when you did, especially with ongoing litigation and investigations that could lead to new information?
- You allege at least 11 examples of obstruction of justice in your report. If Donald Trump weren't president, would you have pursued indictments for any of those 11 examples?

While we certainly understand your not wanting a potential open hearing to be politicized and reduced to sound bites, we feel that significant context would be lost in a transcript from a closed hearing and that many Americans would not read the full interview.

The American people deserve full transparency from your report and the underlying conclusions so we can be fully prepared to ensure that the foreign meddling in the 2016 presidential election will never happen again. Our democracy depends on full transparency and the rule of law, and all Americans deserve to hear from you directly.

Thank you for your service to our country.

Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause

