

August 27, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to express our strong support for a fully-functioning Federal Election Commission (FEC) with FEC commissioners committed to enforcing this nation's campaign finance laws. A functioning FEC is vital to ensuring that the vulnerabilities exposed by Russian interference in our 2016 election will not be further exploited in a system without a watchdog agency. The impending resignation of Vice Chairman Matthew S. Petersen will leave the FEC with only three commissioners, rather than the six commissioners required by statute and, more importantly, without the minimum four commissioners whose votes are required for the FEC to act. This incapacitation of the FEC should be treated as an emergency—a failure to do so will betray the public's right to fair elections and putting our democracy in jeopardy.

The FEC is charged with overseeing the integrity of our democracy's political campaigns. With the latest resignation of one of the four remaining commissioners, the agency will be unable to take any official enforcement or regulatory action, hold meetings, or litigate most matters. A lack of a quorum at the FEC could lead to candidates, political parties, outside groups and other political players exploiting and flouting the law knowing that there will likely be no consequences for doing so.

With the upcoming 2020 elections around the corner, we must have a cop on the beat to provide faith and confidence to our citizens that the rule of law governs our elections. There is more money in our nation's elections than at any other time in history. The FEC has continually failed to uphold our campaign finance laws to ensure that extreme wealth does not corrupt our political system or lead to the appearance or corruption. But, it can only get worse if we lose any and all campaign finance law enforcement. Failure to act would eviscerate campaign finance law at the federal level for 2020 and beyond.

We strongly encourage you to appoint new FEC commissioners (subject to Senate confirmation) who will fully uphold our campaign finance laws, instead of appointees who continually turn a blind eye to big money in politics and are ideologically opposed to campaign finance law. Additionally, the Senate should pass and you should sign the For the People Act (S. 949) to allow the FEC to act with a majority of the sitting commissioners—a revision of the current legal requirement of the affirmative vote of at least four commissioners for FEC action.



Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause

cc: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Rules Committee Chairman Roy Blunt, and Senate Rules Committee Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar

