THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 2, 2018

Dear Senators:

Thank you for your letter on election security. I am pleased to have an opportunity to share with you the extensive, historic actions the Trump Administration has already taken to ensure the integrity of our elections and to defend against foreign malign influence. As you know, on July 27, 2018, President Donald J. Trump convened his second National Security Council meeting in the past few months to address these specific issues, exemplifying a level of dedication and action with respect to this threat that far exceeds that of previous administrations.

Since January 2017, the President has taken decisive action to defend our election systems from meddling and interference. This includes measures to heighten the security and resilience of electoral systems and processes; confront Russian and other foreign malign influence in the United States; confront such aggression through international action; and reinforce a strong sanctions regime.

As you know, elections are administered by States and localities, and the Federal Government's appropriate role is one of supporting their efforts. While respecting our system of Federalism, the Trump Administration has sustained and expanded partnerships for actively involving and sharing information with State and local election officials and private-sector vendors. Through these partnerships, we work to ensure that electoral systems and processes are secure, reliable, available, and trusted by the American people. This includes issuing security clearances to election officials and sharing intelligence-threat information with them, where appropriate.

Many Federal Government actions to protect elections in the United States, such as those implemented by the Intelligence Community or law enforcement agencies, are necessarily sensitive and highly classified. We do not wish to make the efforts of our adversaries any easier through injudicious public disclosures. Nonetheless, as we have offered to do before, the

Trump Administration remains willing to provide Congress classified briefings in secure facilities.

Under the President's leadership, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), for example, now has active partnerships with all 50 States, many of which have received direct assistance at no expense to them. DHS cybersecurity experts have conducted vulnerability assessments, provided expertise in network protection and incidents response, and facilitated training and exercises for election officials. Throughout the 2018 primaries, DHS has also readied itself to provide rapid response to potential cybersecurity incidents if Federal resources are requested. These partnerships and actions will help maximize return on Federal investments, as States use the \$380 million Congress recently made available to support election security. Beyond the vast support his Administration is providing to our Nation's election officials, President Trump is also leading unprecedented action to punish Russia for its efforts to disrupt the political and electoral processes core to American democracy and the American way of life. These actions will also deter Russia and other adversaries from attempting to disrupt American elections. In addition to other actions taken to counter Russia, the President has:

- Imposed sanctions against 16 Russian entities and individuals for their roles in Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election;
- Directed the closure of the Russian consulate in San Francisco and two diplomatic annexes;
- Ordered the closure of the Russian consulate in Seattle;
- Ordered the expulsion of 48 Russian intelligence officers from the United States;
- Expelled 12 Russian intelligence officers from Russia's Mission to the United Nations in New York, the most ever at one time by any President;
- Banned the use of Kaspersky Labs software on Federal Government computers due to its ties to Russian intelligence;
- Imposed sanctions against 7 Russian oligarchs and the 12 companies they own or control, 17 senior Russian government officials, and a state-owned Russian weapons trading company; and
- Imposed sanctions against five Russian entities and three Russian individuals for enabling Russia's military and intelligence units to increase Russia's offensive cyber capabilities.

President Trump has not and will not tolerate interference in America's system of representative government. He has directed a vast, government-wide effort to protect electoral procedures and processes while investigating, prosecuting, and holding accountable those who illegally attempt to interfere.

I look forward to the continued support of Congress as the Administration leads these far-reaching and effective efforts to ensure electoral integrity.

Sincerely,

Ambassador John R. Bolton Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer Senator United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin Senator United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein Senator United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar Senator United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen Senator United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510