

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 15, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Ken A. Blanco
Director
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
Department of Treasury

Dear Director Blanco:

The Senate Finance Committee and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee are conducting an investigation into potentially improper actions by the Obama administration with respect to Burisma Holdings (Burisma) and Ukraine. As discussed in our November 6, 2019, letter to the State Department, while then-Vice President Biden was in office, his son, Hunter, worked for Burisma and “would be paid as much as \$50,000 per month.”¹ At the time, Burisma and its owner were under investigation by Ukraine and U.K. authorities.² According to a report, in 2016, then-Vice President Biden threatened to withhold aid to Ukraine unless the Ukrainian prosecutor that was investigating Burisma was fired, which he eventually was.³ In addition, Burisma’s consulting firm, Blue Star Strategies, used Hunter Biden’s board membership to gain access to Obama administration officials at the State Department and potentially influence matters before government officials on behalf of Burisma.⁴ The Committees have jurisdiction over the taxpayer-funded operations of the State Department and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

¹ Letter from Ron Johnson S. Comm. on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, & Charles E. Grassley. S. Comm. on Finance, to Mike Pompeo, Dep’t of State (Nov. 6, 2019).

² Paul Sonne, Michael Kranish, and Matt Viser, *The gas tycoon and the vice president’s son: The story of Hunter Biden’s foray into Ukraine*, Wash. Post, Sept. 28, 2019, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/the-gas-tycoon-and-the-vice-presidents-son-the-story-of-hunter-bidens-foray-in-ukraine/2019/09/28/1aadff70-dfd9-11e9-8fd3-d943b4ed57e0_story.html; Polina Ivanova, Maria Tsvetkova, et al., *What Hunter Biden did on the board of Ukrainian energy company Burisma*, Reuters, Oct. 18, 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hunter-biden-ukraine/what-hunter-biden-did-on-the-board-of-ukrainian-energy-company-burisma-idUSKBN1WX1P7>.

³ Another report indicates that Vice President Biden made this threat in late 2015. See e.g., Kenneth P. Vogel and Iuliia Mendel, *Biden Faces Conflict of Interest Questions That Are Being Promoted by Trump Allies*, N.Y. Times, May 1, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/01/us/politics/biden-son-ukraine.html>; Glen Kessler, *Correcting a media error: Biden’s Ukraine showdown was in December 2015*, Wash. Post, Oct. 2, 2019, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/02/correcting-media-error-bidens-ukraine-showdown-was-december/>.

⁴ John Solomon, *Hunter Biden’s Ukraine gas firm pressed Obama administration to end corruption allegations, memos show*, johnsolomonreports.com, Nov. 4, 2019, <https://johnsolomonreports.com/hunter-bidens-ukraine-gas-firm-pressed-obama-administration-to-end-corruption-allegations-memos-show/>.

To assist the Committees in the examination of these matters, we are requesting a copy of all Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and related documents that have been filed regarding the following individuals or entities:

1. Hunter Biden;
2. Devon Archer;
3. Christopher Heinz;
4. Karen Tramontano;
5. Sally Painter;
6. Burisma Holdings;
7. Rosemont Seneca Partners;
8. Rosemont Seneca Bohai LLC;
9. Rosemont Capital;
10. Bohai Harvest RST; and
11. Blue Star Strategies.

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized by Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to investigate “the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government.”⁵ Additionally, S. Res. 62 (115th Congress) authorizes the Committee to examine “the efficiency and economy of all branches and functions of Government with particular references to (i) the effectiveness of present national security methods, staffing, and processes”⁶

Please provide these documents no later than December 5, 2019. Thank you for your prompt attention. Should you have any questions, please contact Joshua Flynn-Brown of Chairman Grassley’s staff at 202-224-4515 and Brian Downey or Scott Wittmann of Chairman Johnson’s staff at 202-224-4751.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Finance



Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs

⁵ S. Rule XXV; *see also* S. Res. 445, 108th Cong. (2004).

⁶ S. Res. 62 § 12, 114th Cong. (2015).