



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 9, 2016

The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner, Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations
Committee on the Judiciary
2449 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner:

We write regarding recent comments by presidential nominee Donald Trump that raise serious questions about his encouragement of cyberattacks against Americans and foreign influence in our upcoming elections. We request that you hold a hearing to determine whether there are appropriate federal criminal statutes and federal court jurisdiction to address individuals' actions that encourage foreign actors to carry out cyberattacks against U.S. citizens and influence or manipulate our electoral process.

On July 27, 2016, Mr. Trump told reporters in Florida: "Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 e-mails that are missing." This statement appears to promote Russia carrying out cyberattacks on his political opponent, Hillary Clinton, referring to e-mails she sent as U.S. Secretary of State. This troubling statement also is seen as prompting a foreign government to meddle in U.S. elections, which follows Russian attempts to influence elections in Europe in a similar manner.

As you know, federal criminal statutes bar negotiating with foreign countries against the interest of the United States as well the unauthorized access of computer information relating to national security or foreign affairs. Based on Mr. Trump's statements, the committee should examine the Logan Act, the Espionage Act, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, and other relevant laws to determine if appropriate federal criminal statutes and court jurisdiction exist to prevent individuals from conspiring with foreign governments to undermine our democracy and target American citizens.

We respectfully urge timely consideration of this request considering Mr. Trump's continued access to classified intelligence briefings.

Sincerely,


Patrick E. Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


André Carson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Eric Swalwell
MEMBER OF CONGRESS