



MAURA HEALEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

(617) 727-2200
(617) 727-4765 TTY
www.mass.gov/ago

November 8, 2018

Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Acting Attorney General Whitaker,

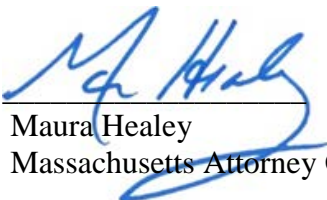
As chief law enforcement officers of our respective states, we ask that you recuse yourself from any role in overseeing Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Because a reasonable person could question your impartiality in the matter, your recusal is necessary to maintain public trust in the integrity of the investigation and to protect the essential and longstanding independence of the Department you have been chosen to lead, on an acting basis. *See, e.g.*, 5 C.F.R. 2635.502(d).

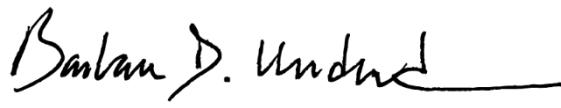
You must be aware that your public comments criticizing Mr. Mueller's investigation have been widely circulated. At various opportunities – in print, on television, and through social media – you have suggested cutting the Special Counsel's budget or limiting his authority to follow lines of inquiry. As prosecutors and law enforcement officials committed to the rule of law, we believe that the independent Special Counsel must have the full authority to investigate and, if warranted, prosecute any violations of federal law.

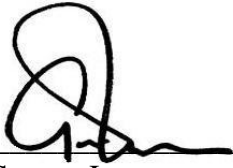
By all appearances, Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein has ably supervised the Special Counsel's investigation from its outset. He should continue to do so, as Mr. Mueller's work must proceed free from interference or supervision that would appear to many Americans to be biased.

An Attorney General's highest responsibility is to uphold the law and ensure public confidence in the impartial administration of justice by leading an empowered and independent Department. We hope you share that goal.

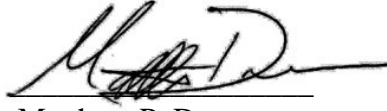
Sincerely,


Maura Healey
Massachusetts Attorney General

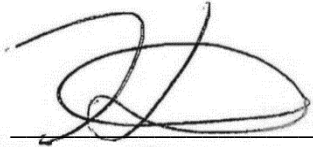

Barbara Underwood
New York Attorney General



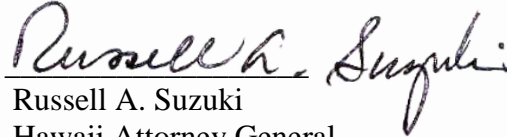
George Jepsen
Connecticut Attorney General



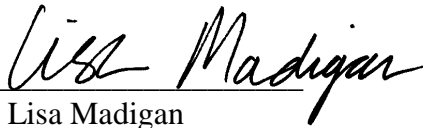
Matthew P. Denn
Delaware Attorney General



Karl A. Racine
Attorney General for the District of Columbia



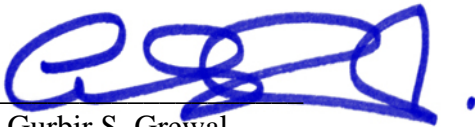
Russell A. Suzuki
Hawaii Attorney General



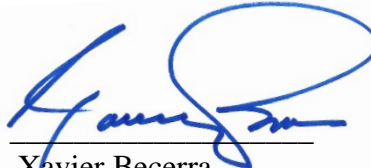
Lisa Madigan
Illinois Attorney General



Lori Swanson
Minnesota Attorney General



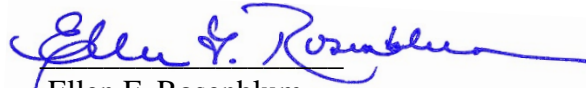
Gurbir S. Grewal
New Jersey Attorney General



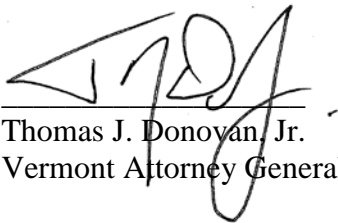
Xavier Becerra
California Attorney General



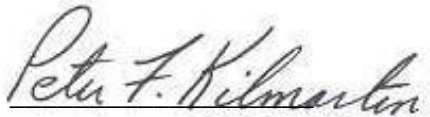
Joshua H. Stein
North Carolina Attorney General



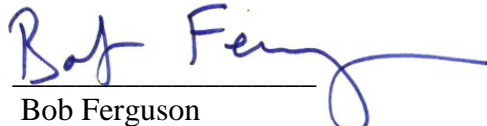
Ellen F. Rosenblum
Oregon Attorney General

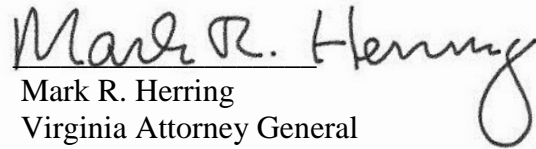



Thomas J. Donovan, Jr.
Vermont Attorney General




Peter F. Kilmartin
Rhode Island Attorney General


Bob Ferguson
Washington State Attorney General


Mark R. Herring
Virginia Attorney General


Hector Balderas
New Mexico Attorney General


Brian E. Frosh
Maryland Attorney General

CC:

Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein
U.S. Senator Richard M. Burr, Chairman, Senate Intelligence Committee
U.S. Senator Mark Warner, Ranking Member, Senate Intelligence Committee
U.S. Representative Mike Conaway, House Intelligence Committee
U.S. Representative Adam Schiff, House Intelligence Committee