

DARRELL ISSA
48TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0550

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2108 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5672

ESCONDIDO DISTRICT OFFICE
221 W. CREST ST., STE.110
ESCONDIDO, CA 92025
(760) 304-7575

TEMECULA DISTRICT OFFICE
41000 MAIN ST.
TEMECULA, CA 92590
(760) 304-7575

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Robin C. Ashton
Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Ms. Ashton,

I am writing to request your office investigate the participation of CIA employees in the coverup of the Hunter Biden laptop story in the final days leading up to the 2020 Presidential election. Recently revealed information provided to Congressional investigators suggests that taxpayer resources and CIA staff may have been used to aid the Biden 2020 presidential campaign.

On October 14, 2020, the New York Post published an explosive news report authored by Emma-Jo Morris declaring the existence of a laptop abandoned by Hunter Biden¹, the contents of which would undermine the Joe Biden Presidential campaign. In response to the New York Post story, Biden campaign advisor Antony Blinken contacted former CIA Director Michael Morrell and (in Morell's words) "set in motion" the drafting of a statement to be signed by intelligence community professionals in order to dismiss the story as potential or likely Russian disinformation.

As a result, Morrell and other veteran CIA professionals solicited signatories for the statement from experienced members of the Intelligence community with the express purpose of providing the Biden campaign with public material and media reports to characterize the story as incredible before and during the imminent October 22 debate between Biden and President Donald Trump. One statement signatory – former CIA official David Cariens – has now confirmed to House investigators that an on-duty CIA official read him the Morrell-drafted statement over the phone and asked him to add his name to the statement, which he did.

As you know, the Hatch Act requires a clear dichotomy between the constitutional and statutory duties of federal officials and any political or campaign-related activities in which they engage. Federal law detailed under 5 U.S.C. § 7323(b)(2)(B) further restricts employees within federal law enforcement and national security agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency². These employees may not take an active role in political activity, even while off duty.

So that Congress can effectively consider whether taxpayer resources and intelligence organizations are being used improperly to advance partisan political interests of the Democratic

¹ Morris, Emma Jo, NY Post, <https://nypost.com/2020/10/14/email-reveals-how-hunter-biden-introduced-ukrainian-biz-man-to-dad/>

² Office of Special Council, <https://osc.gov/Services/Pages/HatchAct-Federal.aspx#tabGroup31>

Congressional candidate and the Democratic party, I ask for your swift review of all necessary materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa", with a stylized, cursive script.

Darrell Issa
Member of Congress