

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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March 27, 2019

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are in receipt of a letter dated March 20, 2019, from you to Mr. Victor Wahba of Mazars USA LLP, a global tax and accountancy firm, seeking documents relating to the finances of the President of the United States years before he entered office.¹ Your inquiry seems to examine facts relating to a transaction that never materialized involving the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League. Your letter cites testimony and material from Michael Cohen, a convicted perjurer who was your first announced witness of the 116th Congress, to request wide-ranging information about the President Trump's financial documents from six to eight years ago—well before the President was even a candidate for the presidency.

Under House Rule X, you have broad latitude to investigate “any matter at any time.”² However, we rely on you to exercise your authority as Chairman with good judgment so that the Committee's work focuses on improving the overall economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the federal government or bettering the lives of the American people.

Your inquiry to Mr. Wahba about the private finances of citizen Donald J. Trump appears to depart from responsible and legitimate oversight. It appears instead that you seek material from Mr. Wahba solely to embarrass President Trump and to advance the relentless Democrat attacks upon the Trump Administration.

Mr. Chairman, our time is short. We should not waste our limited resources and energies on matters that do not improve the operations of the federal government or better the lives of our constituents. We urge you to reconsider your ill-conceived inquiry into the finances of President Trump when he was a private citizen.

The American people sent us here to make government work better for them. The 116th Congress is still young. There is still time to pivot away from your repeated partisan attacks on

¹ Letter from Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Victor Wahba, Chairman and Chief Exec. Off., Mazars USA LLP (Mar. 20, 2019).

² House Rule X, clause 1(n).

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the President and his Administration, and instead focus on improving the operations of the federal government for the American people.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member



Mark Meadows
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations