

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 19, 2018

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
Committee
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
Committee
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bob Corker
Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Crapo and Corker and Ranking Members Brown and Menendez:

Thank you for your continued leadership on issues of U.S. national security and international affairs. As you know, Republican Leader Mitch McConnell today announced that he “tasked the chairmen of the Banking and Foreign Relations Committees with holding hearings on the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, and to recommend to the Senate additional measures that could respond to or deter Russian malign behavior.” We write to urge your respective committee to hold a hearing on these matters during this Senate work period. In addition, we strongly urge the Senate Banking Committee to consider the bipartisan *Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines Act of 2018* (DETER Act) in a business meeting during this Senate work period.

Russia’s ongoing elections interference against our great nation poses direct threats to our democracy, our democratic institutions, and our society, including the real risk that future Russian malign activities may undermine the legitimacy and integrity of future American elections. The U.S. intelligence community has repeatedly made clear that the Russian Federation, under Vladimir Putin, interfered in our 2016 presidential elections. Moreover, Director of National Intelligence Daniel R. Coats warned in the 2018 Worldwide Threat of the U.S. Intelligence Community that “[t]he 2018 U.S. mid-term elections are a potential target for Russian influence operations.”

The DETER Act provides a comprehensive strategy to deter future interference in U.S. elections, by Russia or another foreign adversary. It uses the threat of powerful sanctions to dissuade future Russian attacks on our elections. The DETER Act has strong support with bipartisan cosponsors on both the Banking and Foreign Relations committees.

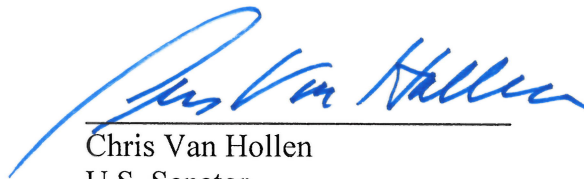
Given the urgency of the challenge before our nation, we urge your respective committee to work to hold its hearing and for the Senate Banking Committee to mark up the DETER Act during this work period. The Senate has the opportunity to highlight to the American public the real threats that foreign interference in our future elections pose, and to act to deter future foreign

interference and defend our country. We are just 110 days away from our elections in November. The time to come together and act is now.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senator