



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

July 6, 2016

The Honorable James R. Clapper  
Director of National Intelligence  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Director Clapper:

Today I am writing to formally request that you refrain from providing any classified information to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for the duration of her candidacy for president. This request is based on findings announced by FBI Director James Comey at a press conference on Tuesday, July 5.

As you know, the FBI's investigation of Secretary Clinton's unauthorized personal e-mail found substantial evidence that Secretary Clinton and her staff were "extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information." In addition, Director Comey's findings directly contradicted previous statements made by Secretary Clinton that she did not send or receive classified information. "Even if information is not marked 'classified' in an email," Comey stated, "participants who know or should know that the subject matter is classified are still obligated to protect it." It is clear that Secretary Clinton, when serving as our nation's chief diplomat, failed to meet this obligation.

As a former vice presidential nominee, I am keenly aware that Secretary Clinton is set to begin receiving classified intelligence briefings after the Democratic National Convention. However, while declining to recommend charges, Director Comey stated that "this is not to suggest that in similar circumstances, a person who engaged in this activity would face no consequences. To the contrary, those individuals are often subject to security or administrative sanctions." Given the FBI's findings, denying Secretary Clinton access to classified information certainly constitutes appropriate sanctions.

There is no legal requirement for you to provide Secretary Clinton with classified information, and it would send the wrong signal to all those charged with safeguarding our nation's secrets if you choose to provide her access to this information despite the FBI's findings. I firmly believe this is necessary to reassure the public that our nation's secrets are secure. Should you choose to reject this request, I ask that you provide your rationale for granting Secretary Clinton access to classified information despite the FBI's findings.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this letter and for the work that the intelligence professionals you lead do each day to keep Americans safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Ryan".

Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker