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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Select Committee on Benghazi

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February 5, 2015

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The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Select Committee on the Events Surrounding
the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi, Libya
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Cummings:

Subsequent to last week's Benghazi Select Committee public hearing with the State Department and Central Intelligence Agency ("CIA"), the State Department committed to an interview schedule commencing Tuesday, February 10, 2015, and concluding in April 2015. While subpoenas were drafted, signed, and ready for execution, assurances from the State Department that witnesses¹ would be made available for interview on a timetable acceptable to the Committee resulted in said subpoenas not being served. We will operate under the assumption the agreed upon timetable will be honored. In the event the timetable is not honored, the subpoenas remain ready to be served and enforced.

Moreover, to the extent any other agency or entity has an interest that warrants consideration, those interests should be addressed consistent with the agreed upon timetable, not in addition to and not as a delay in the agreed upon timetable. Stated differently, if agencies have interests they would like considered, those interests should be stated with particularity now so as to avoid any delay in the interview schedule.

The interviews scheduled are of brave Americans who survived the attacks on our facilities in Benghazi, Libya and others who can provide indispensable firsthand accounts of what happened before, during, and after the attacks, consistent with the House Resolution constituting and instructing the Committee. During this same timeframe, we will interview other individuals, employees, and contractors with the CIA.

All told, over the next three months, the Committee will gain access to information not fully considered by any committee of Congress to date from the nearly three dozen witnesses identified.

¹ The names of the individuals are not included in this letter to protect the identity, safety, and confidentiality of said individuals given the nature of their past, present, and future work. Of course, the minority members of the Committee have the list of individuals.

Consistent with the assurances received from the State Department, we intend to complete these interviews by the end of April. Further to the same, and given our mutual public statements desirous of expediting the information gathering and witness interviewing process, please allow this letter to serve as notice of the next round of witness interviews, which will commence immediately at the conclusion of the pending interviews.

Beginning as early as April, I intend to start interviewing the following individuals (listed in alphabetical order):

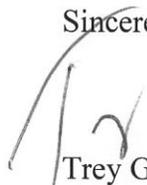
1. William Burns
2. Jay Carney
3. General Martin Dempsey
4. Tom Donilon
5. Benjamin Fishman
6. Patrick Kennedy
7. Charlene Lamb
8. Dennis McDonough
9. Cheryl Mills
10. Michael Morell
11. Michael Mullen
12. Matt Olsen
13. Leon Panetta
14. David Petraeus
15. Thomas Pickering
16. Ben Rhodes
17. Susan Rice
18. Andrew Shapiro
19. Jake Sullivan
20. Mark Thompson

This list does not purport to or begin to identify the full universe of individuals the Committee expects to interview or who might have knowledge about the policies, decisions and activities related to the attacks of September 11, 2012. Nevertheless, the majority members wanted to provide this list of next interviews so the minority members can: (1) provide the names of additional witnesses they would like included in the next series of interviews, (2) request documents that might better prepare the minority members to participate in the formulating of questions, and (3) best prepare for the timeline the Committee expects to follow in the spring of 2015. We welcome and solicit requests for anything else the minority members may need as we prepare for the next round of interviews.

Lastly, both the majority and minority would like to schedule the appearance of Secretary Hillary Clinton as soon as possible. A subpoena was reissued to the State Department seeking documents originally subpoenaed in 2013 related to the Accountability Review Board and the statutory requirement that those documents be set aside for easy access. We also set a deadline for the production of emails, documents or other materials in the possession of the State Department, which would be needed to constructively ask questions of Secretary Clinton and

serve as a reference for the Secretary before and during the hearing. Should the State Department not meet the deadline set, I will schedule another public hearing asking about the state of compliance. I will include in that hearing an invitation to the House Appropriations Committee so that if any programmatic restructuring needs to be done to ensure the resources necessary for compliance with congressional requests, that restructuring can be accomplished.

Sincerely,



Trey Gowdy
Chairman