

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 25, 2020

The Honorable John C. Demers
Assistant Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Assistant Attorney General Demers:

I write to request that your office immediately investigate reports that Richard Grenell did not disclose his past work as a foreign agent in possible violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. According to public reporting, Mr. Grenell, prior to his service in this administration, did not register with or report to the Justice Department his work in support of a number of foreign entities, including the government of Hungary and Vladimir Plahotniuc, a Moldovan government official who last month was sanctioned by the U.S. government for corruption and who has ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

As you know, Mr. Grenell has been named Acting Director of National Intelligence, a position with broad statutory authority to oversee the U.S. intelligence community and access to America's most sensitive national security information. If the reports regarding the nature of Mr. Grenell's undisclosed work with foreign entities are accurate, he may be subject to potential civil and criminal liability as well as vulnerable to blackmail in his new position in the Intelligence Community. It also appears that Mr. Grenell may have misled Congress during his confirmation hearing to be U.S. Ambassador to Germany when asked about his writing on foreign policy and any compensation he received for his work related to Moldova.

Therefore it is imperative that your office determine as soon as possible whether Mr. Grenell has violated the law. If so, he should be referred for enforcement action consistent with Justice Department policies and without regard to any political considerations. Any illegal activity would obviously disqualify him from serving as the Director of National Intelligence or in any other position of public trust.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

cc: Brandon L Van Grack
Director, FARA Registration Unit