Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 3, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

We write to urge you immediately to impose sanctions on individuals, entities and governmental actors seeking to interfere in the 2020 U.S. election. On August 7, 2020, the Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center issued a public statement on foreign threats to the election. That statement included the Intelligence Community assessment that "Russia is using a range of measures to primarily denigrate former Vice President Biden and what it sees as an anti-Russia 'establishment.'" As examples, the statement described the activities of pro-Russia Ukrainian parliamentarian Andriy Derkach and other "Kremlin-linked actors."

Congress has mandated a broad range of sanctions tools, and it is long past time for the administration to send a direct message to President Putin: the U.S. will respond immediately and forcefully to continuing election interference by the government of the Russian Federation and its surrogates, to punish, deter and substantially increase the economic and political costs of such interference. As many of us have observed, there is virtually no national security threat more serious than that posed by those who would undermine confidence in, and the effective operation of, our democratic elections.

In addition to sanctions mandates provided for in the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), broad IEEPA authorities, and cyber-related executive orders, Executive Order 13848 authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, to impose sanctions on any person who has acted with the intent or purpose of interfering in a U.S. election as an agent or on behalf of a foreign government. The conclusions of the Intelligence Community, including the assessed activities of Derkach and other Kremlin-linked actors described in the August 7, 2020, statement, in our view provide ample basis for the imposition of such sanctions.

We thus urge you to draw upon the conclusions of the Intelligence Community to identify and target for sanctions all those determined to be responsible for ongoing election interference, including any actors within the government of the Russian Federation, any Russian actors determined to be directly responsible, and those acting on their behalf or providing material or financial support for their efforts.

We further request information on the extent to which the assessments of the Intelligence Community, including those described in the August 7, 2020, public statement, are being incorporated into the assessment process described in Section 1 of the Executive Order,

We are providing additional classified information through separate channels.

Thank you for your attention to this critical and urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State

The Honorable William Barr
Attorney General

The Honorable John Ratcliffe
Director of National Intelligence