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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

GABRIELLE D'ADAMO SINGER, STAFF DIRECTOR
DAVID M. WEINBERG, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Peters:

Pursuant to Rule 5(C) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I write to notify you of my intent to issue a subpoena for the production of records from Blue Star Strategies (Blue Star), regarding its work on behalf of its client, Burisma Holdings (Burisma). This subpoena is in furtherance of the Committee's ongoing work to address the many unanswered questions about potential conflicts of interest and the extent to which representatives of Burisma—including officials at Blue Star—used individuals with close personal connections to high-level officials within the Obama administration to gain access to and potentially influence U.S. government agencies.

On February 24, 2020, I wrote to notify you of my intent to issue a subpoena for records and attendance to a Blue Star consultant regarding his work there. I stated I would seek documents from the consultant directly because, although he was willing to cooperate with the Committee's investigation, he was bound by a non-disclosure agreement. Conversely, Blue Star's responses to the Committee's December 3, 2019, request were incomplete.¹

On February 27, 2020, you notified me of your disapproval of the issuance of the subpoena to the Blue Star consultant. Your letter stated your concern "that the United States Senate and this Committee could be used to further disinformation efforts by Russian or other actors" and asked that the Committee receive defensive briefings "specifically regarding [the Blue Star consultant] Mr. Telizhenko." Over the last several weeks we have had a number of bipartisan meetings and briefings to discuss the subpoena and address the concerns of Committee members.

¹ Among other issues, Blue Star did not completely disclose its employees and contractors who worked on the Burisma matter. The Committee has also obtained documents that contain communications with Blue Star officials regarding their work on Burisma that Blue Star did not produce to the Committee. See Letter from Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to Sen. Gary C. Peters, Ranking Member, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (Feb. 24, 2020); Letter from Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to Sen. Gary C. Peters, et al., S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (Mar. 1, 2020).

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During the course of these discussions, the suggestion was made by both Democrat and Republican members of our Committee that we should issue a subpoena directly to the source of the documents relevant to our work: Blue Star. I appreciate the engagement of our Committee members on this issue, and believe the appropriate course of action at this time is to accommodate that request. Accordingly, pursuant to the Committee rules, this letter constitutes official notice that I intend to issue a subpoena to Blue Star, for the requests described in the enclosed schedule.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Chairman

Enclosure

Ms. Karen Tramontano
Chief Executive Officer
Blue Star Strategies
888 17th Street, NW Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

Sent Electronically

Schedule A

Please provide the following by March XX, 2020:

1. All records from January 1, 2013 to the present of Blue Star Strategies (“Blue Star”) related to work for or on behalf of Burisma Holdings (“Burisma”) or individuals associated with Burisma, such as Mykola Zlochevsky. The term “record” means any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including but not limited to letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronically stored information (*e.g.*, emails, email attachments, text messages, WhatsApp messages, etc.), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).
2. The attendance of Blue Star Chief Executive Officer Karen Tramontano and Chief Operating Officer Sally Painter, at a date and time to be determined by the Chairman, to discuss the matters described in Request 1.