

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2019

The Honorable Adam B. Schiff
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
HVC-304, Capitol Visitor Center
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On November 6th, you announced the beginning of public hearings associated with the Democratic Party's partisan impeachment inquiry into President Donald J. Trump. Based on precedent and lack of jurisdiction, the House Intelligence Committee should not take the lead in conducting such hearings; however, by now the American people know your desire to see the duly-elected president removed from office outweighs your sense of responsibility to running a functioning intelligence oversight committee.

Prior to the start of your public show trial next week, at least one additional closed-door deposition must take place. Specifically, I request that you sit for a closed-door deposition before the House Intelligence, Foreign Affairs, and Oversight Committees.

As the American public is now aware, in August 2019, you and/or your staff met with or talked to the whistleblower who raised an issue with President Trump's phone call with Ukrainian President Zelensky.¹ Although you publicly claim nothing inappropriate was discussed, the three committees deserve to hear directly from you the substance and circumstances surrounding any discussions conducted with the whistleblower, and any instructions you issued regarding those discussions. Given that you have reneged on your public commitment to let the committees interview the whistleblower directly, you are the only individual who can provide clarity as to these conversations.

As you know, the House Intelligence Committee has precedent for such an arrangement. During the Committee's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, sitting Members of Congress agreed to participate in closed-door depositions. Given your championing of such an arrangement two years ago, you should have no problem with you appearing before the three committees to discuss your interactions with the whistleblower.

¹ Julian E. Barnes et al., *Schiff Got Early Account of Accusations as Whistle-Blower's Concerns Grew*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 2, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/02/us/politics/adam-schiff-whistleblower.html>.

This request is not intended to satisfy the rights of the minority to call witnesses for public testimony pursuant to Section 2 of H. Res. 660. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Devin Nunes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Devin Nunes
Ranking Member