

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 16, 2018

The Honorable Rod Rosenstein
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein:

We write to express our deep concerns with recent reports of new and suspicious activity by Facebook and organizations hired by Facebook. We ask that you include questions about whether Facebook, Cambridge Analytica, or organizations hired by Facebook, hid vital information pertaining to Russian meddling in the 2016 election and actively retaliated against critics and public officials seeking to regulate the platform in any investigation you may be conducting.

As we know from government and internal company investigations, Facebook failed to adequately protect user data or implement basic procedures to prevent foreign governments and agents from undermining trust and faith in our nation's elections and political institutions via their platform.

Compounding this lack of action, recent reporting in the *New York Times*¹ indicates that senior leaders at Facebook had knowledge of these attempts prior to the 2016 election. Not only did these executives fail to disclose this information to relevant law enforcement officials and the public, but they also actively worked to cover it up and discredit anyone who attempted to hold the company accountable.

Facebook allegedly hired partisan political consultants to use disinformation tactics to publically smear critics. These actions not only show bad faith on the part of Facebook, but could have implications for securities and campaign finance law.

Several federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, are reported to currently be investigating Facebook's failure to provide a notice of possible abuse of user data by various groups including Cambridge Analytica. We strongly urge you to expand the Department's existing investigation to include, but not be limited to:

- The alleged failure by company executives to disclose vital information regarding the misuse of Facebook by foreign governments and agents to proper authorities and the public; and

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/14/technology/facebook-data-russia-election-racism.html>

- Any possible retaliatory actions taken against critical officials, individuals, or organizations seeking to increase government regulation or accountability at Facebook.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We request your response by December 7, 2018.

Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress