

Resolution of the Alexandria Democratic Committee in Support of an Impeachment Inquiry

Whereas Russia, a foreign adversary, interfered in our 2016 election through a specific state financed campaign of disinformation and propaganda to help elect Donald Trump President; Trump allegedly welcomed and encouraged Russia's election manipulation; Trump publicly asked Russia to violate United States Law; and Russia, following Trump's request to commit espionage on his behalf, by illegally spying on the campaign of his competitor, Hillary Clinton, released her hacked computer files through wikileaks within five hours of Trump's request;

Whereas Trump has obstructed the inquiry into the illegal Russian espionage and election-rigging on at least 10 separate occasions(1); Trump has obstructed the United States Congress and the Special Counsel investigations; and Trump has repeatedly lied, over 10,000 times, and uses these lies to distract from House and Senate investigations; (2)

Whereas the United States Congress has the Constitutional duty of oversight over the entire Executive Branch of Government, including the President of the United States; Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution of the United States requires the United States Congress to remove the President of the United States "from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors";

Whereas Trump has refused to release his taxes in express violation of Section 6103(f) of the Internal Revenue Code which requires, with no exception, that all taxes be released to appropriate Congressional committees on their chair's request; there are serious allegations of tax fraud and felony campaign violations; and Trump has stonewalled all investigations into his likely repeated violations of Article 1, Section 9 of the United States Constitution which provides "no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust" in the United States "shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State";

Whereas Trump has directed White House employees, like White House Counsel Don McGahn, to not testify before Congress, citing executive privilege to refuse subpoenas; and has cited executive privilege to refuse to answer subpoenas for records for periods of time before he was the nation's chief executive;

Whereas, according to Special Counsel Robert Mueller, the *only* way for Congress to keep a President from holding himself above federal law is for Congress to investigate the President and hold him accountable; Special Counsel Robert Mueller has stated publicly his belief, based on his interpretation of Justice Department regulations, that the Executive Branch of the United States Government is powerless to police a renegade, corrupt, or criminal president in any way whatsoever, no matter how severe or heinous the federal crime; and Mueller has made clear that only the United States Congress has the power to police a President during a president's term of office;

Whereas if this Congress were to refuse to investigate such extremely serious allegations against a sitting President as treason, bribery, obstruction of justice, conspiracy to commit

espionage, and other high crimes and misdemeanors, it would send a signal to future Presidents that they may also hold themselves to be above the law;

Whereas Congressman Don Beyer was the first Congress member from Virginia to call for an impeachment inquiry and has said “Congress must investigate these allegations to determine their veracity, but the President’s illegal cover-up, most recently evidenced by his preventing the Secretary of the Treasury and the former White House Counsel from honoring Congressional subpoenas, leaves us little recourse to do so,”(3) and Don Beyer has cited the overwhelming support for an Impeachment inquiry by his constituents; refusal of Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin to release Trump’s tax return; and bipartisan support now that Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI) supports impeachment. (5)

Whereas Over 39 Congress members have also expressed their support for starting an impeachment inquiry; e.g. Rep. Cicilline (D-RI) who has said, “The White House and the President have attempted to impede our ability to get to the truth...we have a responsibility at some point to open up an inquiry if this kind of obstruction, interference and stonewalling continues”; Marcia Fudge (D-OH) who has said “...if this President’s actions are found to be in violation of the Constitution, then the Congress of the United States needs to do the job the American people elected us to do,”; and Republican Justin Amash (R-MI), who received a standing ovation from his constituents, when he said “More than anyone in our government, we need the President to be ethical, to be of high moral character, and to do the right thing, and the pattern you find in the Mueller report is someone who does not meet that standard.” (4)

Therefore be it resolved that the Alexandria Democratic Committee expresses strong support for the position of Congressman Don Beyer that Congress begin an impeachment inquiry in order to strengthen the hand of Congress to investigate the President, to subpoena information, and to hold the President of the United States accountable for any treason, bribery, or other high crimes or misdemeanors he might have committed.

- (1) <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/obstruction-of-justice-10-times-trump-may-have-obstructed-justice-mueller-report/>
- (2) https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/04/29/president-trump-has-made-more-than-a-false-or-misleading-claims/?utm_term=.abfb86c21353
- (3) <https://beyer.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=4350>
- (4) <https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/23/politics/democrats-impeachment-whip-list/index.html>
- (5) <https://www.npr.org/2019/05/26/727107507/virginia-rep-don-beyer-on-impeachment>