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July 9, 2022

Via Email

Chairman Bennie Thompson
c/o Kirstin Amerling, Esq.
1540 A Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Stephen K. Bannon

Dear Chairman Thompson:

On the morning of October 19, 2021, you denied our request for a one week adjournment in light of the filing of a lawsuit by President Donald J.Trump. Later that same day, your Committee voted to recommend Stephen K. Bannon to the full House for a finding of criminal contempt. After that, later that same evening, you wrote to me to make a point that your Committee was always willing to hear Mr. Bannon’s testimony should he “change his posture” or should circumstances change.

Mr. Bannon has not had a change of posture or of heart. Mr. Bannon has always been consistent, that because President Trump invoked executive privilege with respect to Mr. Bannon’s testimony and the production of requested documents, Mr. Bannon was obligated to honor the President’s invocation, unless and until, either your Committee reached a constitutionally required accommodation with President Trump as to the invocation of executive privilege or your Committee obtained a ruling from the Federal District Court that the invocation of executive privilege was improper or did not apply to the particular question or document sought. I consistently informed you that if either of those events took place, Mr. Bannon would comply with the decision.

While Mr. Bannon has been steadfast in his convictions, circumstances have now changed. President Trump has provided us with a letter, which is attached, attesting to the fact that back in October 2021, he did invoke executive privilege with respect to Mr. Bannon’s testimony and document production.

Further, in light of the surrounding circumstances, even in the absence of any effort by your Committee to reach the requested accommodation with President Trump,

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President Trump has decided that it would be in the best interests of the American people to waive executive privilege for Stephen K. Bannon, to allow Mr. Bannon to comply with the subpoena issued by your Committee. Mr. Bannon is willing to, and indeed prefers, to testify at your public hearing.

Please contact me so that we can try to reach agreement on the time and place of Mr. Bannon's testimony.

Very Truly Yours

/s/ Robert J. Costello