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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Representative James Comer Chairman Committee on Oversight and Accountability U.S. House of Representatives 2157 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515

Re: Invitation to Hearing for Robert Hunter Biden

Dear Chairman Comer:

I received your March 6, 2024, letter, sent with no prior communication, inviting Hunter Biden to join a panel of other "witnesses" at a hearing that you are attempting to arrange on March 20. To begin, even if that hearing was a legitimate exercise of congressional authority, neither Mr. Biden nor I can attend because of a court hearing the very next day in California. The scheduling conflict is the least of the issues, however.

Your blatant planned-for-media event is not a proper proceeding but an obvious attempt to throw a Hail Mary pass after the game has ended. Let me remind you of a statement you made about how witnesses—and specifically Mr. Biden—could satisfy your prior requests. At your press conference after the January 10, 2024, Committee hearing to hold Mr. Biden in contempt, you stated: "All we need are people to come in for the depositions and then we'll be finished. We just need people to show up to the depositions and we'll wrap this up. Nobody wants to wrap this up more than I do." Mr. Biden did just as you asked and, as you did when you announced that witnesses could choose depositions, you want to ignore what you said.

I must confess my surprise by your hasty request. After that six-plus hour deposition on February 28, 2024, along with the realization that your inquiry was based on a patchwork of conspiracies spun by convicted liars and a charged Russian spy, I thought even you would recognize your baseless impeachment proceeding was dead. Even before Mr. Biden testified, witness after witness undermined the central premise of your partisan charade. President Biden has done nothing wrong and certainly nothing, even in your misapplication of the impeachment provisions of the Constitution, to warrant further proceedings. Then, Mr. Biden's answers to *every*

¹ Chairman Comer Press Conference on Hunter Biden Contempt Hearing, CSPAN (Jan. 10, 2024), https://www.cspan.org/video/?532775-4/oversight-committee-chair-james-comer-hunter-biden-contempt-hearing (10:30).



question you, your colleagues and staff posed to him were the final nail in the coffin of your wasteful year-long misadventure. As Mr. Biden said numerous times, backed up by an accurate reference to the records in the Committees' possession, his father was never involved in or derived any financial benefit from Mr. Biden's businesses.

Your allegations of any wrongdoing by anyone comes only from your taking a word, phrase, or line out of context in a few communications usually written by people other than Mr. Biden or when Mr. Biden explained he was in the throes of addiction. In total, your entire house of cards impeachment inquiry is built on one of those isolated texts, a drop-by hello at a dinner where Mr. Biden was pitching support for the World Food Program, a handshake hello in the lobby of a hotel, one of your colleagues not knowing the difference between "having a meeting" and "meeting" someone, Mr. Biden's father chipping in to pay his share of a family bill, or Mr. Biden's uncle paying back a loan he owed. Far from the "smoking guns" you claim, the "evidence" does not amount even to droplets from a water pistol.

Nevertheless, you march forward as if the ground beneath your feet has not crumbled. Your latest step—this March 6 invitation—is not a serious oversight proceeding. It is your attempt to resuscitate your Conference's moribund inquiry with a made-for-right-wing-media, circus act. Your idea of congressional "fact-finding" is, amazingly, to have Mr. Biden appear with the discredited "witnesses" you continue to promote. Tony Bobulinski falsely stated to the FBI that he attended meetings that he was not at; claimed to have a meeting with Mr. Biden's father when the interaction was a perfunctory handshake; denied a very odd encounter with former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, now corroborated by a photo of the very interaction; and sought to go behind Mr. Biden's back to be the only one trying to sell access to the former Vice President. Jason Galanis, who makes grandiose conclusions about the involvement of Mr. Biden's father, is serving 14 years in prison for his lies and fraud. I expected you to also invite Russian disinformation purveyor Alexander Smirnov (whose lies you and your colleagues trumpeted 85 times over the last year on Sean Hannity's show alone),² or Gal Luft whom you once proclaimed to be the key whistleblower, until I realized the former is being held without bail and the latter is a fugitive from justice. Mr. Biden declines your invitation to this carnival side show.

However, your March 6 press release announcing this "hearing" stated: "House Committee on Oversight and Accountability Chairman James Comer (R-Ky.) today invited Hunter Biden and his business associates to testify at an upcoming hearing titled, 'Influence Peddling: Examining Joe Biden's Abuse of Public Office." When this topic was raised at Mr. Biden's deposition, let me remind you of the exchange that occurred:

² Matt Gertz, STUDY: How Sean Hannity Helped Build The GOP's Collapsing Hunter Biden Impeachment Case, Media Matters (February 13, 2024), https://www.mediamatters.org/fox-news/study-how-sean-hannity-helped-build-gops-collapsing-hunter-biden-impeachment-case#paragraph--section-heading--3457282.



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Question. The whole thing is that the former Vice President is coming to meet

potential -

Mr. Biden. But he didn't, number one. You know that he didn't. Number two is

that you know that I never involved him in any of my business.

Number three is –

* * *

Question. I mean, I think it raises questions.

Mr. Biden. No, he's out of office. You're saying he can't do that. So when you

- when Jared Kushner flies over to Saudi Arabia, picks up \$2 billion, comes back, and puts it in his pocket, okay, and he is running for President of the United States, you guys have any problem with that?

* * *

Mr. Raskin. I'm sorry. What did you say? We do have a problem with that? Let

the record reflect -

* * *

cc:

Chairman Comer. When we'll deal with influence peddling, we'll ask.

(Biden Deposition Tr. at 111–112.)

It was *you*, Mr. Comer, who said that. If you are serious about pursuing this oversight purpose in a legitimate and bipartisan fashion, you would hold a hearing with relatives of former President Trump about whom you indicated you "would ask." If you do, Mr. Biden would consider an invitation for that event.

Sincerely,

Abbe David Lowell

Counsel for Robert Hunter Biden

Rep. Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Accountability