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Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: 202-465-8728

April 20, 2020

Honorable William Barr
Attorney General of the United States
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

RE: Evidence of President Donald Trump's violation of the Hatch Act, 18 U.S.C. 610

Dear General Barr:

We write to request the appointment of a special counsel pursuant to 28 C.F.R. 6001(a) to investigate President Donald Trump for allegedly commanding a federal employee to engage in political activity, i.e., the unprecedented, gratuitous placement of Mr. Trump's signature on the memo line of tens of millions of United States Treasury checks disbursed to eligible citizens under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) in violation of 18 U.S.C. 610. You are undoubtedly aware that section 610 carries no exceptions for the President or Vice President, unlike other Hatch Act provisions.

President Trump is actively seeking re-election. The signature of President Trump on United States Treasury checks is superfluous to their value, legality, or authenticity. The signature serves no official government purpose. It does serve Mr. Trump's 2020 re-election campaign by making it appear that he is responsible for a monetary windfall to tens of millions of voters.

Mr. Trump was the first official in the Executive Branch to publicly float the idea of his signature appearing on CARES checks. The Washington Post reported on April 15, 2020 that Mr. Trump's signature would appear, and that Mr. Trump had asked Secretary of Treasury Steve Mnuchin to make it happen.

On April 19, 2020, Secretary Mnuchin on CNN belatedly claimed he raised the idea with the President. The Secretary's explanation, however, is revealing: "He is the President, and I think a terrific symbol to the American people." Everyone knows Mr. Trump is President. And his signature on the CARES checks in the middle of his 2020 presidential campaign is a prominent symbol that benefits his re-election by making it appear that he has alleviated the financial plight of tens of millions of voters. Neither Mr. Mnuchin nor Mr. Trump has proffered an alternative symbolic effect of Mr. Trump's signature.

In any event, the foregoing evidence justifies a special counsel investigation as to whether President Trump has violated 18 U.S.C. 610 by commanding a federal employee to enable his piggybacking on CARES checks to further his re-election campaign.

If you do not find justification for a special counsel, we would request a legal opinion explaining your decision.

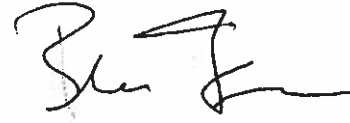
Sincerely,



Ralph Nader



Louis Fisher



Bruce Fein
