

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES,

March 8, 2019.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
*Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*
Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND CHAIRMAN
ENGEL: I write in reply to your letters re-
garding H.R. 1404, the Vladimir Putin Trans-
parency Act. I appreciate your willingness to
work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill
fall within the jurisdiction of the Commit-
tees on Financial Services and Foreign Af-
fairs; and that your Committees will not
take up H.R. 1404 formally. I further agree
that your Committees' inaction regarding
the bill will not waive any future jurisdic-
tional claims over matters addressed in H.R.
1404 which fall within your Committees' ju-
risdiction under Rule X of the Rules of Pro-
cedure for the House of Representatives for
the 116th Congress.

At your request, I lastly will ensure that
our exchange of letters is included in the
Congressional Record during floor consid-
eration of the bill. Thank you again for your
cooperation regarding the legislation. I look
forward to continuing to work with both of
you as the measure moves through the legis-
lative process.

Sincerely,

ADAM B. SCHIFF,
Chairman.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I
yield myself such time as I may con-
sume.

Madam Speaker, today I rise in
strong support of H.R. 1404, the Vladi-
mir Putin Transparency Act.

According to the 2017 Intelligence
Community Assessment produced by
the CIA, NSA, the FBI, and an indict-
ment issued by the Attorney General
in 2018, it is clear that Russian actors
conspired to interfere and influence
U.S. political processes and the Presi-
dential election in 2016. This assess-
ment stated that "Russian President
Vladimir Putin ordered an influence
campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S.
Presidential election. Russia's goals
were to undermine public faith in the
U.S. democratic process."

Madam Speaker, the Russian Govern-
ment has been known to employ a sys-
tem of corruption and illicit financial
ties as a tool for consolidating its do-
mestic political control and projecting
power abroad to weaken not only the
United States but other democratic
countries as well.

That is why I proudly co-sponsored
H.R. 1404. The bill would require that
within 180 days of enactment, the Di-
rector of National Intelligence, in co-
ordination with the Secretary of the
Treasury and the Secretary of State,
shall submit a congressional report on
the personal net worth and assets
owned by Russian President Vladimir
Putin.

The report would also include ac-
counts, holdings, shell companies, and
intermediaries, and identify senior
Russian political figures and oligarchs
who facilitate corrupt practices. Vladi-
mir Putin and his corrupt allies seek to

weaken democracies globally by con-
solidating political control through un-
ethical means, and they must be
brought to account for their actions.

This bipartisan legislation is an im-
portant step to ensuring the security of
our elections and upholding democracy
around the world. I urge my colleagues
to support this commonsense bill. I
also want to thank my colleague, Rep-
resentative VAL DEMINGS, for her lead-
ership on this issue. I am proud to
work across the aisle with her to pass
this important bill.

Madam Speaker, in closing, as I have
noted in my remarks, this is important
bipartisan legislation. It is about
transparency, it is about account-
ability, and it is about standing up to
the corrupt practices of Russian Presi-
dent Vladimir Putin. This is bipar-
tisan, commonsense legislation, and I
urge my colleagues to support this bill
on the floor.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the bal-
ance of my time.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, in
closing, H.R. 1404 will shine a light on
Vladimir Putin's financial networks
that have stripped the Russian Federa-
tion of its resources and left the Rus-
sian people in poverty. It will also em-
power Congress, the intelligence com-
munity, and our allies to crack down
on cross-border corruption.

I want to thank my colleague on the
Permanent Select Committee on Intel-
ligence, Representative STEFANIK, for
joining me in this important legisla-
tion.

Additionally, I want to thank the
hardworking staff on both sides of the
aisle on the Permanent Select Com-
mittee on Intelligence and the Foreign
Affairs Committee for their input on
this critical legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the bal-
ance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
question is on the motion offered by
the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs.
DEMINGS) that the House suspend the
rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1404, as
amended.

The question was taken; and (two-
thirds being in the affirmative) the
rules were suspended and the bill, as
amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on
the table.

KEEPING RUSSIAN ENTRAPMENTS MINIMAL AND LIMITING INTEL- LIGENCE NETWORKS ACT

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam
Speaker, I move to suspend the rules
and pass the bill (H.R. 1617) to direct
the Director of National Intelligence to
submit intelligence assessments of the
intentions of the political leadership of
the Russian Federation, and for other
purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1617

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Keeping
Russian Entrapments Minimal and Limiting
Intelligence Networks Act" or the "KREM-
LIN Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Russia continues to engage in informa-
tion warfare and political interference in the
West, including by undermining democratic
systems and exploiting economic and ethnic
tensions within member countries of the
North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(2) Such activities constitute a threat to
the United States and to its allies.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Countering America's Adversaries
Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44)
authorized the United States Government to
impose sanctions in response to actions by
countries, including Russia, that undermine
the security of the United States;

(2) the United States should sustain its
contribution to the newly deployed enhanced
forward presence of the North Atlantic Tre-
aty Organization (NATO) in Poland, Lith-
uania, Latvia, and Estonia and encourage
Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany
to continue their important leadership roles
in the military presence of NATO in those
countries;

(3) the United States has defensive inten-
tions in pursuing such sanctions and such en-
hanced military posture in Europe, and does
not seek to threaten Russian territory;

(4) the United States does not seek to be an
enemy of the Russian people;

(5) the United States desires a peaceful,
economically prosperous relationship with
Russia based on democratic principles where
freedom and the rule of law are upheld for
all; and

(6) the United States is committed to de-
fending these fundamental beliefs against
any Russian aggression.

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT FOR INTELLIGENCE AS- SESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
after the date of the enactment of this Act,
the Director of National Intelligence, in con-
sultation with the Secretary of State and
the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the
appropriate congressional committees each
of the assessments described in subsection
(b).

(b) ASSESSMENTS DESCRIBED.—The assess-
ments described in this section are the fol-
lowing with respect to the current intentions
of the political leadership of the Russian
Federation and based on intelligence ob-
tained from all sources:

(1) Potential military action against mem-
bers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organi-
zation (NATO).

(2) Potential responses to an enlarged
United States or NATO military presence in
eastern Europe or to increased United States
military support for allies and partners in
the region, such as the provision of addi-
tional lethal military equipment to Ukraine
or Georgia.

(3) Potential areas where the Government
of the Russian Federation could exploit
weaknesses and divisions among the govern-
ments of its Western adversaries.

(c) FORM.—Each assessment required under
subsection (a) may be submitted in classified
form but shall also include an unclassified
executive summary, consistent with the pro-
tection of intelligence sources and methods.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
TEES.—In this section, the term "appropriate
congressional committees" means—

(1) the Permanent Select Committee on In-
telligence, the Committee on Foreign Af-
fairs, and the Committee on Armed Services
of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1617.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1617, the Keeping Russian Entrapments Minimal and Limiting Intelligence Networks Act, or the KREMLIN Act.

The intelligence community is united in its assessment that Russia attempted to sabotage the 2016 U.S. election and that America is not alone in facing these dangers and attacks. In fact, recent reports indicate that Russia continues to engage in information warfare and political interference in the West that threatens the health of democratic institutions within member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, otherwise known as NATO.

Among many examples, the Russian Federation is linked to cybercrimes in Ukraine and Germany, disinformation campaigns here in the United States, intelligence support for pro-Russian Bulgarian candidates, and financing for pro-Russian parties in France.

The bipartisan KREMLIN Act which I introduced with my friend, Congressman CHRIS STEWART of Utah, acknowledges the active threat of foreign interference on the United States and our NATO allies.

Specifically, this legislation would require the Director of National Intelligence to submit three intelligence assessments to Congress. These assessments must analyze:

First, potential military action by Russia against members of NATO;

Second, potential responses by Russia to an enlarged U.S. or NATO presence in Eastern Europe;

Third, potential areas where the Russian Government could exploit weaknesses and divisions among the governments of NATO and her allies.

Most importantly, the KREMLIN Act recognizes that Russian meddling with our allied NATO countries constitutes a direct threat to the United States.

By providing the appropriate congressional committees with these comprehensive assessments, we will be better prepared to thwart efforts in the future that aim to weaken international democratic institutions.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2019.

Hon. ADAM SCHIFF,
Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that the Committee on Foreign Affairs has now had an opportunity to review H.R. 1617, the "KREMLIN Act," which falls within our shared Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate that you have consulted with us on this legislation. The Foreign Affairs Committee has no objection to considering this bill on the House floor. To expedite that consideration, the Foreign Affairs Committee is willing to waive referral, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over the legislation or its subject matter.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Foreign Affairs Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with this bill or related provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperation spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, House Committee on
Foreign Affairs.

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

March 8, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: I write in reply to your letter regarding H.R. 1617, the "KREMLIN Act." I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and that the Committee on Foreign Affairs will not take up H.R. 1617 formally. I further agree that your Committee's inaction regarding the bill will not waive any future jurisdictional claims over matters addressed in H.R. 1617 which fall within your Committee's jurisdiction under Rule X of the Rules of Procedure for the House of Representatives for the 116th Congress.

At your request, I lastly will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ADAM B. SCHIFF,
Chairman.

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 1617, and I am proud to cosponsor this bill with my friend, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

The Keeping Russian Entrapments Minimal and Limiting Intelligence Networks Act, also known as the KREMLIN Act, is a commonsense bill that directs the intelligence commu-

nity to conduct an assessment on the leadership of the Russian Government's plans and intentions, as my friend RAJA has said, especially in regards to NATO.

Madam Speaker, with some questioning Washington's commitment to the transatlantic alliance, this bill also serves as a reminder to our allies of the U.S. Congress' commitment to NATO.

□ 1315

NATO is indispensable. As a former military officer, I know firsthand how true that is. It is also as important today as it has ever been. Understanding the threats that the Kremlin continues to challenge to this important alliance is of utmost importance.

In particular, the bill seeks assessments in three areas:

First, any potential military action against NATO members;

Second, potential reaction to the expansion of NATO; and,

Third, potential weaknesses and areas of division against NATO allies.

Learning the Russian Government's intentions in these areas will better enable the United States Government to counter any attempts to undermine this critical alliance that we call NATO.

I thank the Speaker, urge passage of H.R. 1617, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and am prepared to close.

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, once again, very briefly, this is a commonsense piece of legislation. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation. Importantly, it improves our national security. It improves the ability of our intelligence agencies to do the critical work that they do.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, for the health of our democracy, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan KREMLIN Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1617.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTRONIC MESSAGE PRESERVATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1582) to amend title 44, United States Code, to require preservation of certain electronic records by Federal agencies, to require a certification and reports relating to Presidential records, and for other purposes.