

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 15, 2020

Pat A. Cipollone  
Counsel to the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Cipollone:

We write to express significant concern regarding the fact that the Federal Election Commission (FEC) has been without a quorum for more than four months, and to urge the White House to immediately nominate the bipartisan pair of candidates that have been submitted to the White House by Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer to fill the current vacancies on the Commission.

The FEC is the independent regulatory agency responsible for enforcing federal campaign finance laws. Strong enforcement of campaign finance laws is essential to ensuring transparency and accountability in our democracy. Since Matthew Petersen resigned from the FEC on August 31st, the Commission has been without a quorum of commissioners. That's 137 days without a fully functioning bipartisan agency to administer the laws that protect against corruption and foreign interference in our political system. It is past time to take action to restore a quorum.

Since losing a quorum, the FEC has been unable to carry out essential functions like issuing advisory opinions, conducting audits, issuing fines, holding public meetings, and voting on the outcome of investigations. This is unacceptable in any year, but especially so during an election year when our law enforcement and intelligence officials have warned that foreign adversaries are attempting to illegally influence our political system. According to the FEC's End of Year Report, there are currently 35 pending cases that allege a violation on the ban against political spending by foreign-nationals, yet because it lacks a quorum, the FEC cannot take meaningful action to address the cases. This is unacceptable.

In addition to the dangers associated with a lack of enforcement, the failure to restore a quorum is creating confusion and diminishing confidence in our election system. Accordingly, a recent letter from a bipartisan group of campaign finance lawyers urges the White House to immediately restore a quorum at the Commission. The American people deserve a fully functioning FEC now; stalling for political strategy when there are currently two candidates ready to be nominated is wrong.

Traditionally, nominees to the FEC have been confirmed on a bipartisan basis. Consistent with that practice, the Democratic and Republican Leaders in the Senate have sent two candidates to the White House for consideration and nomination to the Commission. The Republican candidate has been formally nominated to the FEC, and reports indicate that there is no reason for delay in nominating the Democratic nominee, who has undergone months of vetting by the White House. No one should play politics with the independent agency responsible for enforcing our campaign finance laws; instead we should be working together to restore a quorum as soon as possible.

A fully functioning FEC is critical to safeguarding our political system from corruption and foreign influence. We respectfully request that the White House immediately nominate the bipartisan pair of candidates submitted to you in order to fill current vacancies on the Commission.

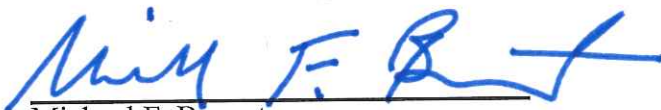
Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator




Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



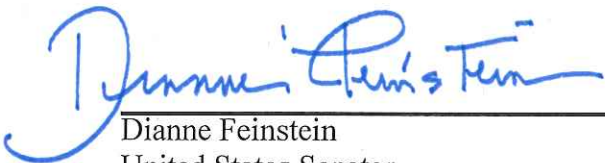
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



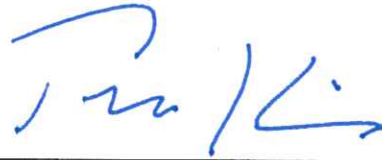
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



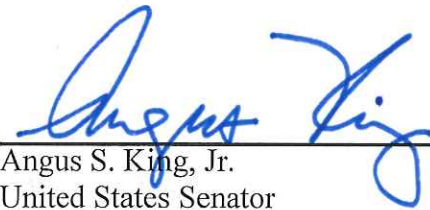
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



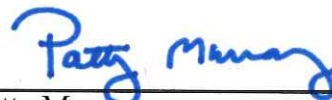
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



*Tina Smith*

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Tina Smith  
United States Senator

*Jon Tester*

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Jon Tester  
United States Senator

*Tom Udall*

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Tom Udall  
United States Senator

*Chris Van Hollen*

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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

*Mark R. Warner*

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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

*Ron Wyden*

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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator