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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

KOLAN DAVIS, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL  
JOSHUA SHEINKMAN, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

May 3, 2019

Allan Cors



Dear Mr. Cors:

On December 13, 2018, I requested that you make yourself available to be interviewed by my staff in conjunction with my investigation into Russian engagement with the National Rifle Association (NRA) and political activities. You failed to respond to my request. Separately, the NRA has voluntarily provided a number of documents related to your role as the organization's president in 2015. In order to resolve this matter, I, as Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, respectfully request that you provide answers and related documents to the attached questions no later than May 17, 2019.

I also request that you complete and notarize the attachment attesting to the accuracy and authenticity of your response. Federal law (18 USC 1001) generally makes it a crime to knowingly and willfully provide false information or to conceal a material fact in any matter within the jurisdiction of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Wyden".

Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate Finance Committee

Attachment

**2015 NRA Moscow Trip**

- 1) After public scrutiny related to the NRA's involvement in the December 2015 trip to Moscow, you were quoted in a January 28, 2019 New York Times report as having said, "Wayne [LaPierre] did not want any misconception that this was an official trip. Frankly, I had similar concerns." In a March 19, 2018 letter to Sen. Wyden, NRA Secretary and General Counsel John Frazer claimed that Joe Gregory, who he identified as "chairman" and member of the Golden Ring of Freedom, "traveled to Russia in his personal capacity."

However, the NRA later produced, as part of its document production, a letter dated November 23, 2015 in which you wrote in your capacity as President of the NRA to Alexander Torshin, withdrawing from the NRA delegation's trip citing health issues—with no mention of a concern about whether the organization was involved in the planning and execution of the delegation's travel. In the letter, you also designated David Keene and Joe Gregory as representatives of the NRA's five million members.

In an email to you, dated November 13, 2015, Donna Keene characterized the NRA delegation's travel to Moscow as "NRA business" for which she and David Keene "had worked for 7 years to build trust with the Russians." Mrs. Keene additionally claimed the Russians were "status-conscious and have spent untold hours and dollars on us." Mrs. Keene also reported in a November 6, 2015 email to you and other participants of the NRA's delegation that Christopher-Ian DeWitt, the NRA Ring of Freedom Manager, was the delegation's "silent partner so far and will be our contact for follow-up issues."

- a) Please identify and provide copies of any correspondence corroborating your assertion that your withdrawal from the NRA delegation's travel to Moscow was due to concerns about the organization's ties to Russia.
- b) Describe and document any additional steps that you took, before, during, or after the 2015 Moscow trip to disassociate the NRA from the delegation's trip, not just within the NRA but also with regard to how the Russians would perceive and interpret the trip. For example, did you communicate with Ambassador Kislyak the fact that this was not an official NRA trip and that you would not be attending?
- c) Please describe the NRA's role in planning, paying or reimbursing expenses for, and staffing the delegation's trip to Moscow.
- d) Please clarify how the delegation's travel to Moscow constituted "NRA business" and explain what you understood Donna Keene to mean when she wrote that Russians had spent "untold hours and dollars on us."
- e) Please describe Mr. DeWitt's role as a "silent partner" in planning the delegation's trip and identify any "follow-up issues" in which he was involved.

**Meetings and Communications with Russian Ambassador Kislyak**

- 2) The NRA provided documents that indicate NRA officers, including you, scheduled multiple meetings with then-Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, including a three-hour meeting at the NRA in 2015 and a private luncheon at the Ambassador's residence on May 5, 2016. These documents also show that on November 10, 2015, Nicholas Perrine

scheduled a “Hunt with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak” for you for November 19-22, 2015.

- a) Please confirm whether you participated in the 2015 meeting with Ambassador Kislyak at the NRA headquarters, identify any other attendees, and describe the purpose and substance of the meeting.
- b) Please confirm whether the November 2015 hunt with Ambassador Kislyak took place, identify who participated, and briefly summarize the substance of any conversations with the Ambassador.
- c) Please confirm whether the May 2016 lunch with Ambassador Kislyak took place and describe the purpose and substance of the event.
- d) Please identify any other meetings or events between you and the Russian Ambassador or his staff. For each such meeting or event provide a brief summary of and explanation for the purpose and substance of the event and identify the attendees.
- e) On December 9, 2015, you emailed NRA staff, “I need to send a note to Amb. Kislyak at the Russian embassy.” No correspondence was provided by the NRA related to your proposed note to then-Ambassador Kislyak cited in the December 9, 2015 e-mail. Please provide a copy of this note and any other correspondence between yourself and the Ambassador.

#### **NRA 2016 Presidential campaign endorsement process**

- 3) The NRA provided a March 26, 2016 email with the subject line “The Russians are coming!” from you to David Keene. In addition to confirming invitations to the NRA’s 2016 annual meeting for several Russians, you wrote, “You are in charge of finding someone who can beat Hillary. Carry on.”
  - a) Please describe the NRA’s presidential endorsement process for the 2016 campaign.
  - b) Please describe any role David Keene played in the NRA’s decision to endorse Donald Trump for President on May 20, 2016.

#### **NRA Annual Meetings and Events**

- 4) According to documents provided by the NRA, Maria Butina and Alexander Torshin were invited to attend—and did attend—the 2015 Annual Meeting. What role, if any, did you play in approving those invitations?
- 5) According to documents provided by the NRA, Maria Butina and Alexander Torshin and several other Russians were invited to attend—and did attend—the 2016 Annual Meeting at the request of Mr. Brownell. What role, if any, did you play in approving those invitations?
- 6) According to documents provided by the NRA, you were informed during the NRA’s 2016 Annual Meeting about a dinner at which Donald Trump Jr. was introduced to Alexander Torshin, who attended the Annual Meeting at the NRA’s invitation. According to reports provided to you, this introduction occurred during a dinner hosted by David

Keene that coincided with an NRA-hosted political fundraising event. According to reports made to you, David Keene threatened to not only leave the Annual Meeting; he also threatened to leave the NRA because of the way in which the NRA handled the resulting situation. Please describe the nature of the NRA event and your understanding of why Mr. Torshin was introduced to, and photographed with, Donald Trump Jr.

- 7) Identify and describe any NRA meetings or events or conversations at which you met with or talked to Maria Butina or Alexander Torshin and the substance of those interactions.
- 8) Identify and describe any meetings, events, or conversations you had with Paul Erickson with regard to the NRA and/or Russia and the substance of those interactions.

**Notarized Statement of Accuracy**

I certify that the statements I have made and the materials that I have provided in response to the Committee's letter of April XX, 2019, are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_