

ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH, CHAIRMAN

CHUCK GRASSLEY, IOWA
MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO
PAT ROBERTS, KANSAS
MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA
RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO
PATRICK J. TOOMEY, PENNSYLVANIA
DEAN HELLER, NEVADA
TIM SCOTT, SOUTH CAROLINA
BILL CASSIDY, LOUISIANA

RON WYDEN, OREGON
DEBBIE STABENOW, MICHIGAN
MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON
BILL NELSON, FLORIDA
ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND
SHERROD BROWN, OHIO
MICHAEL F. BENNET, COLORADO
ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., PENNSYLVANIA
MARK R. WARNER, VIRGINIA
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

A. JAY KHOSLA, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSHUA SHEINKMAN, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

May 17, 2018

Mr. Ken Blanco
Director
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
2070 Chain Bridge Road
Vienna, Virginia 22182

Dear Director,

Pursuant to the Senate Finance Committee's oversight responsibilities over the Department of the Treasury and for financial crimes I am writing to request more information about reported alterations in the Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) database related to the Michael Cohen/Essential Consulting LLC accounts, including possible removal or sequestration of SARs reporting suspicious activity in these accounts.¹

On May 16, 2018, The New Yorker reported that SARs related to Michael Cohen's accounts had been removed from the normally accessible SARs database.² According to a number of individuals with knowledge of the database cited in this report, as well as other reporting on these allegations, indicates that removal or sequestration of SARs is highly unusual if not unprecedented.

In addition to the request I made on May 11th for information related to payments received by Mr. Cohen, Essential Consultants LLC, and any related entities from Novartis International AG, I am requesting the following:

- 1) Copies of any documents in FinCEN's possession, including but not limited to any and all SARs, related to any payments made to Mr. Cohen, Essential Consultants or related entities.
- 2) Confirmation of whether or not, as alleged in the New Yorker article, SARs related to any such payments were removed or sequestered from within the SAR database.
- 3) If SARs were removed or sequestered, an explanation of why this was done and by whom.
- 4) Copies of all policies and guidelines related to management of the SARs database.

¹ Ronan Farrow, "Missing Files Motivated the Leak of Michael Cohen's Financial Records," *The New Yorker*, May 16, 2018, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/missing-files-motivated-the-leak-of-michael-cohens-financial-records>

² *Id.*

Please provide these documents and responses no later than May 31, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Wyden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Wyden
Ranking Member