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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

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

May 17, 2018

Mr. Eric M. Thorson
Inspector General
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Inspector General,

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, removal or sequestration of SARs is highly unusual if not unprecedented.

I am therefore requesting the following:

1. Please examine the way in which SARs related to accounts held and transactions by Mr. Cohen, Essential Consulting LLC s and any related entities were managed, altered, removed, or sequestered within the SAR database.
2. Please examine the policies and procedures related to access to and management of the database to ensure its integrity. Please examine whether FinCEN is acting in accordance with this policies and whether additional Congressional action is warranted.

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.*

Sincerely,

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

Ron Wyden
Ranking Member