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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 8, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Harry S. Truman Building
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

According to this morning's *New York Times* story "Witness in Trump-Ukraine Matter Ordered Not to Speak in Impeachment Inquiry" published by Michael Schmidt and Nicholas Fandos, "The Trump administration directed a top American diplomat involved in its pressure campaign on Ukraine not to appear Tuesday morning for a scheduled interview in the House's impeachment inquiry." Who, Secretary Pompeo, prohibited the United States Ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland, from appearing before the House Intelligence Committee today?

I ask that you direct the person who prohibited Ambassador Sondland from communicating with Congress to section 713 of Division D of Public Law 116-6 signed by President Trump earlier this year. As you are aware, this section prohibits paying the salary of any "officer or employee of the Federal Government who prohibits or prevents...any other officer or employee of the Federal Government from...communication or contact with any Member, committee, or subcommittee of the Congress." I believe the person prohibiting Ambassador Sondland from testifying before the House Intelligence Committee is in violation of this statute, and that their salary should be withheld until Ambassador Sondland appears before Congress.

During today's hearing, I had hoped to learn more about Ambassador Sondland's recent discussion with U.S. Senator Ron Johnson. As reported by Siobhan Hughes and Rebecca Ballhaus of the *Wall Street Journal* on October 4, 2019: "Sen. Ron Johnson said that Gordon Sondland, the U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, had described to him a quid pro quo involving a commitment by Kyiv to probe matters related to U.S. elections and the status of nearly \$400 million in U.S. aid to Ukraine that the president had ordered to be held up in July."

As you can imagine, as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, I find Senator Johnson's account appalling. Congress had to pass the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 in response to then-President Nixon's refusal to release federal funds for items he opposed, and now 45 years later we find ourselves examining whether President Trump has violated that law by withholding Congressionally appropriated security assistance to the Ukraine in order to further his own political objectives.

I look forward to your prompt response to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Pocan", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress