

May XX, 2017

Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein:

The fair and impartial administration of justice is essential to the rule of law, which is the foundation of our democracy. We write to you as individuals who have spent much of our careers with the Department of Justice, working under Republican and Democratic presidents, and who revere the institution. Some of us know you and have worked with you. As Deputy Attorney General, you alone have the power to take a step essential to ensuring public confidence in the independence of our American system of justice.

As you know, the 10-year term given to FBI Directors is intended to protect the FBI from political interference. The circumstances surrounding the removal of Director Comey have raised serious questions about potential political interference in the ongoing investigation into Russian activities in the 2016 election.

Like you, we care deeply about the integrity of our legal system, and especially the Department of Justice and the criminal justice process. We implore you to appoint a special counsel in this matter, as contemplated by 28 C.F.R. § 600.1, and to vest that special counsel with sufficient independence, jurisdiction, and resources to fully investigate all relevant matters — including any potential interference in the underlying investigation through the firing of Director Comey. In the event there are any efforts to impede the special counsel's investigation, we ask you to report them promptly to the Congress and the public.

You now have the responsibility, and with it the obligation, to ensure the nation's confidence in the administration of justice. We thank you for your continued service to the Department of Justice and to the American people.