

John R. Phillippe Jr.  
Chief Counsel  
Republican National Committee  
310 First St. SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003

October 18, 2016

**RE: REQUEST FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO PATRICK KENNEDY'S  
REPORTED "QUID PRO QUO" OFFER**

Mr. Steve Linick  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of State  
Office of Inspector General  
Room 8100, SA-3  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20520-0308

Dear Mr. Linick:

Yesterday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released an internal report indicating that the State Department's Under Secretary for Management, Patrick Kennedy, appears to have made a quid-pro-quo offer to the FBI. According to the FBI report, Mr. Kennedy offered that the State Department would allow "the FBI to place more Agents in countries where they are presently forbidden" if the FBI agreed to change the designation of an email found on Secretary Clinton's secret server from classified to unclassified.<sup>[1]</sup>

To learn that a senior State Department official may have attempted to make a backroom deal to cover up the extent to which our national security was put at risk by Secretary Clinton's use of a secret email server is shocking and warrants an immediate review by your office. Further, I request that your office investigate whether Mr. Kennedy made any additional quid-pro-quo offers to other federal agencies in relation to Secretary Clinton's emails.

Mr. Kennedy's attempt to influence the release of records in a manner that benefits presidential candidate Hillary Clinton undermines government transparency. According to the FBI report, one unidentified individual told the FBI, "STATE has an agenda which involves minimizing the classified nature of the Clinton emails in order to protect STATE interests and those of CLINTON."<sup>[2]</sup> I request that your office review Mr. Kennedy's role in the release of Clinton-related records to determine the extent of Mr. Kennedy's attempts to manipulate the FOIA review process.

Mr. Kennedy's actions directly undermine the instructions President Obama gave regarding the handling of FOIA requests. President Obama wrote in 2009 that "[t]he Government should not keep information confidential merely because public officials might be embarrassed by disclosure, because errors and failures might be revealed, or because of speculative or abstract fears. Nondisclosure

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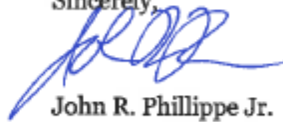
<sup>[1]</sup> "FD-302," Federal Bureau Of Investigation, Released 10/17/16, p. 26

<sup>[2]</sup> "FD-302," Federal Bureau Of Investigation, Released 10/17/16, p. 27

should never be based on an effort to protect the personal interests of Government officials at the expense of those they are supposed to serve."<sup>[3]</sup>

For these reasons, on behalf of the Republican National Committee, I request that OIG investigate Mr. Kennedy's quid-pro-quo offer and the extent of his involvement in attempting to influence the FOIA review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Phillippe Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John R. Phillippe Jr.  
Chief Counsel

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<sup>[3]</sup> Presidential Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies Concerning the Freedom of Information Act, 74 Fed. Reg. 4683 (Jan. 21, 2009).