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October 1, 2019

Mr. Ken O'Day

[REDACTED]
Camas, WA 98607-8894

Dear Mr. O'Day,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the whistleblower complaint regarding President Trump's conduct with Ukraine. It is an honor to represent the people of Southwest Washington, and I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with me.

As you know, an intelligence community employee submitted an anonymous complaint to acting inspector general Michael Atkinson which includes allegations about the president's conduct during a phone call with Ukrainian President Zelensky. The Trump Administration has turned over the transcript of this conversation, as well as the whistleblower's report to the Inspector General of the intelligence community.

These allegations are serious and efforts to get all of the facts demand continued transparency. I am focused on whether or not the president coerced Ukraine to influence the 2020 election by threatening to withhold aid to that country, and here's why: As a Member of Congress the question I must answer is not "Did the president demonstrate great judgement during this phone call?" because he didn't. The question I must answer is "Did the president commit high crimes and misdemeanors?" because that's the standard for impeachment.

Asking a country to investigate and root out corruption or election interference is not a crime in itself, even if the investigation may involve your political opponents. There are senior senators who in May of 2018 asked Ukraine to help investigate the Trump campaign - and nobody is talking about throwing them out of office over it. So unless we're operating a double standard, it needs to be proven that the president coerced Ukraine to interfere in the 2020 election under the threat of withholding aid. And that hasn't been done.

No one is above the law and these allegations remain serious, but for the sake of this nation we should all follow a process that does not put conclusions before facts.

Thank you again for contacting me on this important issue. I invite you to visit my website at www.JHB.house.gov for additional information or to sign up to be kept up to date on these issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jaime Herrera Beutler

Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress