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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

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

February 2, 2018

Wilson H. Phillips, Jr.  
Treasurer  
National Rifle Association of America  
11250 Waples Mill Road  
Fairfax, VA 22030

To Mr. Wilson H. Phillips, Jr.,

The Senate Finance Committee is charged with administration of matters relating to taxation, including oversight of tax exempt organizations. I write to you today as the committee's ranking member with concerns about recent news reports indicating that your organization could have been used by Russian individuals and/or entities to funnel foreign contributions into the 2016 election. According to these news reports, the FBI is investigating whether Alexander Torshin, a Russian official with close ties to President Vladimir Putin—who has reported links to money laundering—inappropriately and illegally influenced our election.<sup>1</sup>

I am specifically troubled by the possibility that Russian-backed shell companies or intermediaries may have circumvented laws designed to prohibit foreign meddling in our elections by abusing the rules governing 501(c)(4) tax exempt organizations. To aid in my oversight responsibilities, please provide, at a minimum, preliminary responses to the following questions no later than February 16, 2018:

- a) Please identify any remuneration, transaction, or contribution that involved any of the 501(c)(4) entities associated with your organization and any entity or individual associated with any Russian official, Russian national, or Russian business interest, including their agents, representatives, or intermediaries.
- b) Please identify any policies or procedures your organization has implemented to ensure that funds from foreign sources are not used to influence U.S. elections.
- c) Please provide all documents related to any remuneration, transaction, or contribution in (a) including but not limited to any account statements, deposit slips, cancelled checks, credit card statements, wire transfer slips, real estate ownership documentation and associated securitized debt.

- d) Please identify any documents under (c) which have already been turned over to United States authorities.

If you have any questions please contact Committee staff at (202) 224-4515. Thank you for your swift attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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<sup>1</sup> *FBI Investigating Whether Russian Money Went To NRA To Help Trump*; McClatchy, January 18, 2018; [www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article195231139.html](http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article195231139.html)