

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 7, 2021

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray:

We write to request an immediate and urgent briefing on the steps the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is taking to investigate and pursue for prosecution the instigation, planning, and execution of the deadly terrorist attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, by President Donald Trump, his supporters, and outside groups, as well as to disrupt any further activity designed to attack our government.

President Trump repeatedly incited his supporters to travel to the District of Columbia and carry out violence against the Capitol and Members of Congress. On December 19, 2020, President Trump published a tweet inviting his supporters to come to D.C., stating: “Statistically impossible to have lost the 2020 Election. Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!”¹

At a rally yesterday morning, the President told his supporters that “we got to get rid of the weak congresspeople, the ones that aren’t any good” and that “we fight like Hell and if you don’t fight like Hell, you’re not going to have a country anymore.” President Trump ended his speech by telling his supporters, “We’re going [to] walk down to the Capitol ... you’ll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength, and you have to be strong.”²

The President’s personal lawyer, Rudolph Giuliani, also spoke at the rally, encouraging the President’s supporters to engage in “trial by combat” to overturn the results of the 2020 Presidential election. The President’s son, Donald Trump Jr. warned Republican Members who supposedly do not support the President that “we’re coming for you.”³

¹ Twitter, Donald J. Trump (online at <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1340185773220515840>) (accessed on Jan. 6, 2021).

² *Transcript of President Donald J. Trump’s Speech at the Save America Rally*, Rev (Jan. 6, 2021) (online at www.rev.com/blog/transcripts/donald-trump-speech-save-america-rally-transcript-january-6).

³ *Trump Told Crowd, “You Will Never Take Back Our Country with Weakness,”* New York Times (Jan. 6, 2021) (online at www.nytimes.com/2021/01/06/us/politics/trump-speech-capitol.html).

Following the rally, thousands of the President's supporters followed his direction and marched to the Capitol with the goal of preventing Congress from certifying the November 2020 election. Some of the rioters were armed and carrying Trump campaign flags.⁴

As the violent mob stormed the Capitol, President Trump, who reportedly was watching the carnage unfold on television and "was initially pleased by the disturbance."⁵ When President Trump finally released a videotaped statement several hours later, he repeated his false claim that the election was "stolen" and praised the insurrectionists, telling them, "We love you."⁶

In response to President Trump's dangerous behavior, former Attorney General Bill Barr stated that "[o]rchestrating a mob to pressure Congress is inexcusable" and that the President's conduct was a "betrayal of his office."⁷

The attack against the United States Congress resulted in the deaths of at least four people, endangered Members and staff and law enforcement officials, caused damage to the U.S. Capitol building, and disrupted Members of Congress from fulfilling their constitutional responsibility to certify the results of the 2020 Presidential election.

Given the incendiary environment caused and exacerbated by President Trump's rhetoric, along with the upcoming inauguration of President-Elect Joe Biden, it is imperative that the FBI leverage all available assets and resources to ensure that the perpetrators of this domestic terrorist attack and those who incited and conspired with them are brought to justice, and that this domestic terrorist group is disrupted from further actions against our government.

We request an urgent briefing for the Chairs and Ranking Members of the undersigned Committees on how the FBI is working to investigate and hold responsible the domestic terrorists who incited and executed yesterday's attack on the Capitol, as well as how the FBI has been tracking this domestic terrorist group, how it prepared for the events on January 6, 2021, and how it plans to disrupt any further violent plans. This briefing should include detailed information about how the FBI is working to collect evidence and to track these individuals. Please contact our staffs to schedule the briefing.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Trump Told Crowd, "You Will Never Take Back Our Country With Weakness,"* New York Times (Jan. 6, 2021) (online at www.nytimes.com/2021/01/06/us/politics/trump-speech-capitol.html); *White House Officials Weigh Exits After Trump Incites Mayhem*, Bloomberg (Jan. 7, 2021) (online at www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-07/trump-s-deputy-national-security-adviser-pottinger-resigns).

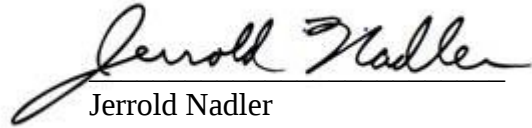
⁶ *'Go Home. We Love You': Trump to Protesters*, ABC News (Jan. 6, 2021) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/video/home-love-trump-protesters-75094574>).

⁷ *Former Attorney General Bill Barr Says Trump's Conduct Was "Betrayal of His Office,"* CNN (Jan. 7, 2021) (online at www.cnn.com/politics/live-news/washington-dc-election-riots/h_04d72ac31f3f9ac3e22b52bdf5e8de02).

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform



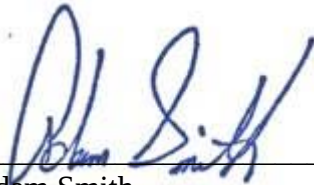
Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary



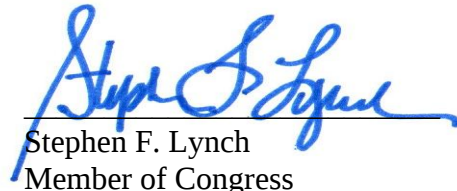
Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



Adam B. Schiff
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence



Adam Smith
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable James R. Comer, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable John Katko, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Devin Nunes, Ranking Member
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

The Honorable Mike Rogers, Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services