

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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May 11, 2017

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AG Balderas Calls for Independent Special Counsel Following President Trump's Firing of FBI Director Comey

Santa Fe, NM - Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas joined 19 other attorneys general in calling for the immediate appointment of an independent special counsel to investigate Russian interference in the presidential election. The letter, sent to the U.S. Department of Justice's Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, calls the firing of FBI Director James Comey during his ongoing investigation "a violation of the public trust."

"As prosecutors committed to the rule of law, we urge you to consider the damage to our democratic system of any attempts by the administration to derail and delegitimize the investigation," the letter states.

The attorneys general also argue that the residents in their states "deserve a thorough investigation that makes clear the extent of Russian meddling, any collusion by Trump campaign officials, and any cover-up."

Joining Attorney General Balderas in today's letter are attorneys general from Massachusetts, California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont and Washington.

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May 11, 2017

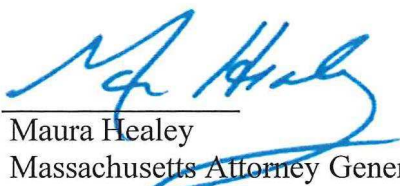
Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein,


As the chief law enforcement officers of our respective states, we view the President's firing of FBI Director James Comey in the middle of his investigation of Russian interference in the presidential election as a violation of the public trust. As prosecutors committed to the rule of law, we urge you to consider the damage to our democratic system of any attempts by the administration to derail and delegitimize the investigation.

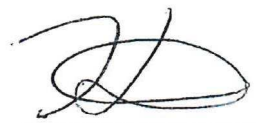
The residents of our states and the American people deserve a thorough investigation that makes clear the extent of Russian meddling, any collusion by Trump campaign officials, and any cover-up. Only the appointment of an independent special counsel, pursuant to 28 CFR § 600.1, with full powers and resources, can begin to restore public confidence. We urge you to appoint a special counsel immediately.

Sincerely,

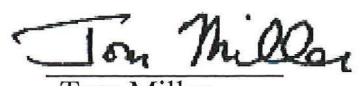

Maura Healey
Massachusetts Attorney General


Xavier Bercerra
California Attorney General



George Jepsen
Connecticut Attorney General


Karl A. Racine
District of Columbia Attorney General


Douglas S. Chin
Hawaii Attorney General


Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General





Lisa Madigan
Illinois Attorney General



Janet E. Mills
Maine Attorney General



Brian E. Frosh
Maryland Attorney General



Hector Balderas
New Mexico Attorney General



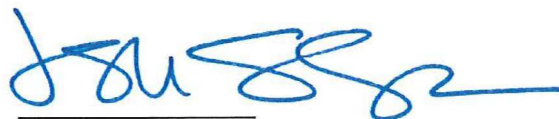
Eric T. Schneiderman
New York Attorney General



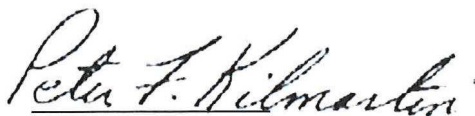
Josh Stein
North Carolina Attorney General



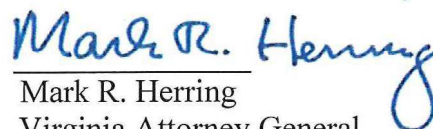
Ellen F. Rosenblum
Oregon Attorney General



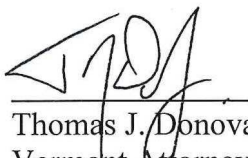
Josh Shapiro
Pennsylvania Attorney General



Peter F. Kilmartin
Rhode Island Attorney General



Mark R. Herring
Virginia Attorney General



Thomas J. Donovan Jr.
Vermont Attorney General



Bob Ferguson
Washington Attorney General



Matt Denn
Delaware Attorney General



Lori Swanson
Minnesota Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Richard M. Burr, Chairman, Senate Intelligence Committee
The Honorable Mark Warner, Ranking Member, Senate Intelligence Committee
The Honorable Mike Conaway, House Intelligence Committee
The Honorable Adam Schiff, House Intelligence Committee