

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Bennie G. Thompson  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H2-176 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Jerrold Nadler  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 24, 2020

Dear Chairman Thompson and Chairman Nadler,

Thank you for the work you and your committees are doing to protect our rule of law and to hold this Administration accountable. This is a unique and challenging time in our country's history, and we are grateful to you both for your leadership and your dedication to Congress's critical oversight responsibility.

We support the statement you released, alongside Armed Services Committee Chairman Smith, expressing your concern over the actions of federal law enforcement in Portland and demanding an investigation by the Administration into the situation there. We are also glad to see that the Homeland Security Committee will be holding a hearing on this topic next week.

We have been deeply disturbed by the reports coming out of Portland. Federal law enforcement officers' first responsibility is to the Constitution and the laws of our nation. The actions we have seen in Portland — federal law enforcement patrolling the streets in unmarked cars, dressed in fatigues, making arrests without probable cause, and declining to identify themselves when asked — are not in keeping with either our Constitution, our laws, or our values. They are the actions of a police state, and in violation of the 1st, 4th, and 5th Amendment rights of American citizens.

With the President's announcement on July 22nd that he will send federal law enforcement officers into additional American cities, Congress must take action. We could not agree more with the sentiments expressed in your statement — Congress must find a way to “rein in the Trump Administration's growing militarization and misuse of federal law enforcement against the American people.”

The internal investigations from the Inspectors General announced on July 23rd will hopefully provide important answers. But with this Administration's history of undermining and obfuscating independent executive branch investigations, it is vital that Congress assert its role as a co-equal branch of government and fully exercise its oversight responsibility.

To that end, we ask you both to begin comprehensive congressional investigations in your respective committees, as soon as possible, to hear directly from the Administration on their

presumed legal justifications, the chain of command, and their plans to rectify the civil rights abuses that have occurred during the recent and ongoing protests.

We wish to express our strong support in advance of your efforts. Thank you again for your dedication, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that our citizens do not have to fear arbitrary arrest when exercising their constitutional rights.

Sincerely,



Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger  
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Andy Kim  
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Chrissy Houlahan  
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Joyce Beatty  
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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
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Josh Gottheimer  
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Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress

Elaine G. Luria  
Member of Congress