

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 19, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

We are writing to express our strong support for the State of Maryland's request for federal assistance regarding the Maryland State Board of Elections, pursuant to the letter of July 13, 2018 from Governor Larry Hogan, Senate President Mike Miller, and House Speaker Michael Busch.

Given the unanimous assessment of the Intelligence Community that Russia interfered in our 2016 presidential election, all levels of our government must take every necessary precaution to preserve the security and integrity of America's free and fair elections. American elections are a hallmark of our democratic system and a cornerstone of the rule of law. We understand that federal law enforcement officials briefed the Maryland Board of Elections regarding a vendor contracted to provide voter registration infrastructure and other services, and that company had been acquired by a parent company with financial ties to a Russian national.

We therefore strongly support the State of Maryland's request that the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Cybersecurity and Communications provide the State of Maryland with technical assistance to evaluate the network utilized by the Maryland State Board of Elections. Specifically, DHS can help assist the State of Maryland in evaluating network security, auditing network integrity, and providing additional support and services deemed necessary and appropriate by the Maryland State Board of Elections.

We thank you for your expeditious consideration of our request and look forward to continuing to work with you to safeguard American elections.

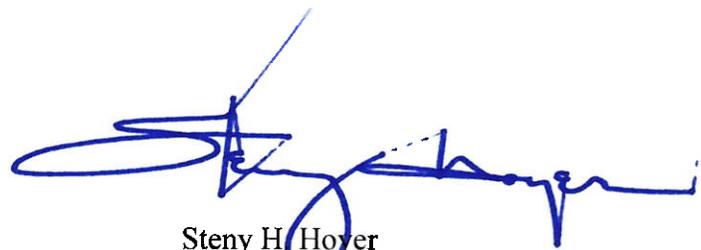
Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Jamie B. Raskin
Member of Congress

Cc: Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein
FBI Director Christopher Wray
U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert Hur
FBI Special Agent in Charge for Maryland Gordon Johnson
Maryland Governor Larry Hogan
Maryland Senate President Mike Miller
Maryland House Speaker Michael Busch
Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh
Maryland Board of Elections Administrator Linda Lamone