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ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate
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July 29, 2014

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0009

Dear Attorney General Holder,

I write to request that the Department of Justice investigate whether certain foreign individuals residing in the United States have violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) statutes.

One such individual is Mr. Mikhail Yurievich Lesin, who serves as Director-General of Gazprom Media Holding, Russia's largest media group. Mr. Lesin served as Russia's Minister for Communications and Mass Media from 1999-2004. From 2004 until 2009, Mr. Lesin advised President Putin on the creation of the Kremlin-funded English-language television channel Russia Today.

I understand that Mr. Lesin, who led the Kremlin's effort to censor Russia's independent television outlets, acquired multimillion dollar assets in Europe, including an estate reportedly purchased through a company registered in the British Virgin Islands, during his tenure as a Russian civil servant. I also understand that following his government service, Mr. Lesin moved his immediate family to Los Angeles, California, where he acquired multiple residences at a cost of over \$28 million. That a Russian public servant could have amassed the considerable funds required to acquire and maintain these assets in Europe and the United States raises serious questions.

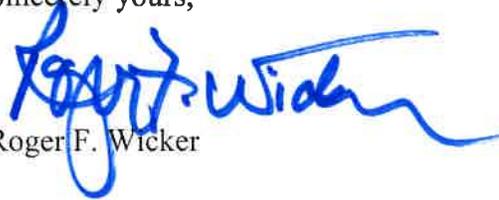
Mr. Lesin, whose name was suggested by some groups for inclusion on a U.S. sanctions list under the Magnitsky Act, may also have close business ties with individuals subject to U.S. sanctions. In 2013, Mr. Lesin was appointed to his current position as Director-General of Gazprom Media Holding, Russia's largest media group. Gazprom Media is owned by Gazprombank, the financial arm of the Russian state-owned gas giant Gazprom. Gazprombank is closely linked through its management structure to Bank Rossiya, which is owned by Mr. Yury Kovalchuk. Both Bank Rossiya and Yury Kovalchuk are currently subject to sanctions by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control as of March 20, 2014 under Executive Order 13661.

I request that the Department of Justice launch an investigation into whether Mr. Lesin and similarly situated Russian individuals and companies with assets in the United States that may be in violation of the FCPA and AML.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roger F. Wicker". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger F. Wicker

RFW/jl