

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

The Honorable Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to urge you to immediately remove Stephen Bannon from a permanent position on the National Security Council (NSC). This unprecedented move breaks with historical ties and dangerously removes important national security voices, including the Director of National Intelligence and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, while politicizing the NSC through the presence of your Chief Strategist, Stephen Bannon.

As Members of Congress, we share in the responsibility to protect and defend our nation. However, Mr. Bannon's presence on the NSC would undermine that very security. The presence of Mr. Bannon, one of your Administration's most senior political operatives, on the Principals Committee of the NSC and his standing invitation to attend National Security Council meetings would erode the impartial function of that important institution. Our national security depends on the full understanding that it is our nation's interests - not political calculation - that is driving your Administration's decision making. Even the appearance of partisan politics undermines that mission and calls into question every action of the NSC and our government's national security agencies.

In addition to these institutional considerations, we are deeply troubled by Mr. Bannon's past statements and actions. Mr. Bannon has provided a platform for white nationalists and the alt-right national movement, and he has also espoused a false theory of a violent clash of civilizations between the west and Islam that only serves to fuel violent extremism. This type of thinking contradicts more than 15 years of experience on what does and does not work in confronting violent extremism. Additionally, Mr. Bannon's lack of government experience and his extreme political agenda remains deeply troubling. There must be no place for such views at the center of America's national security apparatus.

While we respect the traditional privilege of the Presidency to shape the NSC to its unique needs, we strongly denounce Mr. Bannon's inclusion in the Principals Committee and standing invitation to attend National Security Council meetings and demand you immediately undo this

politicization of America's national security. It is completely dangerous and morally reprehensible. We hope that you will take this action but stand ready to use Congressional authorities to protect our national security should you fail to do so promptly.

Sincerely,



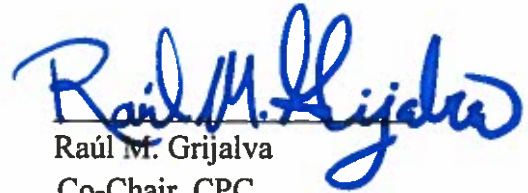
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Chairwoman, CAPAC



Keith Ellison  
Co-Chair, CPC



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Co-Chair, CPC



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