

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 14, 2017

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Gowdy and Chairman Goodlatte:

We are writing to request that either the Oversight Committee or the Judiciary Committee issue subpoenas to compel the production of documents from two data consultants to the 2016 presidential campaign: Cambridge Analytica and Giles-Parscale. If you decline to issue these subpoenas, then we request that you place this matter on the agendas for our next regularly scheduled business meeting so we may vote on motions to subpoena these critical documents.

On October 26, 2017, Ranking Members Cummings and Conyers sent a letter to five data consultants to the 2016 presidential campaign—Cambridge Analytica, Giles-Parscale, Target Point, Deep Root, and Data Trust—requesting documents relating to their possible engagement with foreign actors such as WikiLeaks, communication with foreign governments, and use of misappropriated data.¹

Three of these companies—TargetPoint, Deep Root, and Data Trust—sent responses on the same day, using language that was nearly identical and apparently coordinated. Their letters denied any foreign contacts whatsoever and declined to produce any documents:

- On October 30, 2017, TargetPoint wrote: “We are as troubled as you are if a foreign government interfered in our elections. We, however, played no role in and have no first-hand knowledge of the events you cite. We can assure you that

¹ Letter from Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr., House Committee on the Judiciary, and Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government reform, to Alexander Nix, Chief Executive Officer, Cambridge Analytica, et al. (Oct. 26, 2017) (online at <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/democrats.judiciary.house.gov/files/documents/10.26%20Jud%20OGR%20letter.pdf>).

our company had no contact with nor received any information from a foreign government or foreign actor.”²

- On October 30, 2017, Deep Root wrote: “We are as troubled as you are at the prospect of foreign government interference in our elections. We can assure you that our company played no role in, and we have no first-hand knowledge of, the events you cite. We have had no contacts with, did not provide information to, and did not receive any information from a foreign government or foreign actor.”³
- On October 30, 2017, Data Trust wrote: “We ... can assure you that our company has had no contact with nor received any information from a foreign government of foreign actor with respect to the products or services we provide. ... [W]e have no first-hand knowledge of the events your letter cites.”⁴

In contrast, Giles-Parscale and Cambridge Analytica did not deny that they had contacts or communications with foreign governments or foreign actors during the 2016 campaign:

- On November 3, 2017, Brad Parscale of Giles-Parscale sent a letter using some—but not all—of the language as the three companies above: “I share your concerns and would not want foreign government meddling in our elections. ... I do not have any firsthand knowledge of foreign interference in the 2016 election.”⁵ However, in a significant difference, he did not deny that his company had contacts or communications with foreign governments or foreign actors. In fact,

² Letter from Michael Meyers, President, TargetPoint Consulting, to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr., House Committee on the Judiciary (Oct. 30, 2017) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/documents/TargetPoint.103017.Response%20to%20EEC%20Conyers%20re%20Russian%20Interference.pdf>).

³ Letter from Alex Lundry, Cofounder and Chief Data Scientist, Deep Root Analytics, to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr., House Committee on the Judiciary (Oct. 30, 2017) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/documents/DeepRoot.103017.Response%20to%20EEC%20Conyers%20re%20Russian%20Interference.pdf>).

⁴ Letter from Matthew Lakin, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Data Trust, to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr., House Committee on the Judiciary (Oct. 30, 2017) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/documents/DATA%20TRUST.103017.Response%20to%20EEC%20Conyers%20re%20Russian%20Interference.pdf>).

⁵ Letter from Brad Parscale, Web Director, Giles-Parscale, Inc., to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr., House Committee on the Judiciary (Nov. 3, 2017) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/documents/Giles-Parscale.110317.Response%20to%20EEC%20Conyers%20re%20Russian%20Interference.pdf>).

recent press accounts have reported that Donald Trump, Jr. emailed Mr. Parscale about his correspondence with WikiLeaks.⁶

- Cambridge Analytica refused to respond to our inquiry and thus did not deny that the company had contacts and communications with foreign governments or foreign actors. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange confirmed that Cambridge Analytica approached WikiLeaks during the campaign to coordinate the release of Clinton's missing emails.⁷ Alexander Nix, CEO of Cambridge Analytica, also confirmed this attempted outreach.⁸

Because the first three companies have asserted unequivocally that none of their employees had contacts with any foreign agents during the presidential campaign, we are willing to delay any further inquiry unless or until evidence to the contrary emerges. However, neither Giles Parscale nor Cambridge Analytica have denied these contacts. We therefore request that our committees issue subpoenas to these companies to compel the production of the information they are withholding from Congress.

This investigation is critical given that high-level Trump campaign officials, including Donald Trump, Jr. and Jared Kushner, knew of campaign contacts with WikiLeaks.⁹ Some of these contacts reportedly took place *after* the Intelligence Community concluded that it was "confident" that "the Russian Government directed the recent compromises of e-mails from US persons and institutions" and that the "recent disclosures of allegedly hacked e-mails on sites like DCLeaks.com and WikiLeaks and by the Guccifer 2.0 online persona are consistent with the methods and motivations of Russian-directed efforts."¹⁰ Furthermore, high-level Trump Campaign officers reportedly instructed Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn to contact Russian officials and other foreign dignitaries despite previous denials.¹¹

⁶ *Trump Son Told Brad Parscale and Others About His WikiLeaks Contact*, San Antonio Express-News (Nov. 14, 2017) (online at www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/Trump-son-told-Brad-Parscale-and-others-about-his-12357325.php).

⁷ *Trump Data Guru: I Tried to Team Up with Julian Assange*, Daily Beast (Oct. 25, 2017) (online at www.thedailybeast.com/trump-data-guru-i-tried-to-team-up-with-julian-assange).

⁸ *Data Firm's WikiLeaks Outreach Came As It Joined Trump Campaign*, Wall Street Journal (Nov. 10, 2017) (online at www.wsj.com/articles/data-firms-wikileaks-outreach-came-as-it-joined-trump-campaign-1510339346).

⁹ *Kushner Got Emails about WikiLeaks, Russia in 2016, Lawmakers Say*, Politico (Nov. 16, 2017) (online at www.politico.com/story/2017/11/16/jared-kushner-wikileaks-emails-245197); *Donald Trump Jr. Releases Exchanges with WikiLeaks*, CNN (Nov. 14, 2017) (online at www.cnn.com/2017/11/13/politics/wikileaks-donald-trump-jr-2016-election/index.html).

¹⁰ Joint Statement from the Department of Homeland Security and Office of the Director of National Intelligence on Election Security (Oct. 7, 2016) (online at www.dhs.gov/news/2016/10/07/joint-statement-department-homeland-security-and-office-director-national).

¹¹ *Kushner is Said to Have Ordered Flynn to Contact Russia*, Bloomberg (Dec. 1, 2017) (online at www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-12-01/kushner-is-said-to-have-ordered-flynn-to-contact-russia).

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We understand that you declined to join the original request for documents from these companies, but this is a matter that directly affects our citizens and their exercise of their right to vote. We owe the American people robust and meaningful oversight of matters affecting the integrity of our electoral process.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary



Elijah E. Cummings
Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform