



May 8, 2019

Dear Senator/Representative,

Special Counsel Robert Mueller's recent report concluded that, "The Russian government interfered in the 2016 presidential election in a sweeping and systematic fashion." That is unacceptable, and it must be addressed immediately so that it never happens again.

We, the undersigned, as members of Issue One's ReFormers Caucus — a coalition of former members of Congress, governors, and Cabinet officials representing all fifty states and both political parties — are writing to urge you to hold hearings on and pass the bipartisan [Honest Ads Act](#) as a first step toward strengthening our election security and ensuring that interference is much less likely in the future. In addition, Congress should consider legislation — some of which has already been introduced — that addresses other areas of concern raised by the Mueller Report, specifically dark money, foreign expenditures, and the definition of campaign coordination. Our commitment to defending the national security of the United States crosses partisan and ideological divides. Many of us served in a branch of the armed forces, oversaw national security while serving in Congress, or directed an agency charged with preventing domestic and foreign attacks against the United States.

Over the last two years, the Intelligence Community and the House and Senate Intelligence Committees have agreed that foreign actors interfered in the 2016 U.S. elections — and that hostile enemies and opponents of democracy around the world will likely try again. These bad actors will continue to infect some of the largest internet platforms in order to divide and weaken the country. As former elected officials, we believe now is the time for lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to address the growing cybersecurity challenges presented by Russia, China, Iran, and non-state actors.

In 2016, advertisements by foreign entities on social media platforms — some of which were paid for in rubles — anonymously targeted American voters, igniting conflict and manipulating our political system. The Honest Ads Act would implement a commonsense system for paid, online political advertising, closely modeled on longstanding rules for paid political advertising on television and radio. The legislation is supported by some of the world's largest internet platforms, including [Facebook](#), [Google](#), [Twitter](#), [Microsoft](#), and [IBM](#). "What we're doing is we're going to verify the

identity of any advertiser who's running a political or issue-related ad — this is basically what the Honest Ads Act is proposing....We support the Honest Ads Act" [said Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg](#).

More than a dozen of your fellow Republican and Democratic lawmakers sponsored such measures last Congress, and Special Counsel Mueller's findings confirm that foreign-led disinformation campaigns are a national security crisis.

It is your constitutional duty to address this crisis. We hope that you take this important moment to reach across party lines to pass the Honest Ads Act and other critical foreign interference and cybersecurity measures that will protect and secure our elections.

Respectfully,

Fmr. Ambassador Tim Roemer (D-IN)  
*ReFormers Caucus Co-chair*

Fmr. Congressman Zach Wamp (R-TN)  
*ReFormers Caucus Co-chair*

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Congressman Les AuCoin (D-OR)  
Congressman Brian Baird (D-WA)  
Congressman Mike Barnes (D-MD)  
Congressman Gresham Barrett (R-SC)  
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Congressman Bill Clinger (R-PA)  
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