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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

January 8, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Department of Justice

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Director Patel:

In July 2022, I began my congressional investigation into Arctic Frost.¹ Since then, Chairman Ron Johnson and I have made whistleblower records public that have exposed how partisan FBI agents and Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecutors opened, approved, and advanced the investigation against President Trump and expanded its scope to other Republican groups and individuals. We've also released records showing that anti-Trump former FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Timothy Thibault essentially opened and approved his own investigation in violation of FBI policy.²

In response to our document requests, your agencies produced a document that shows that edits were made to an early version of a draft Arctic Frost opening document. This document has several handwritten edits, including the crossing out of the initial name of the investigation, "Hyperbolic Frost," and renaming it "Arctic Frost."

This newly released DOJ document calls into question the accuracy of the testimony former FBI Director James Comey provided to me during a May 3, 2017, Senate Judiciary

¹ Letter from Senator Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary to Attorney General Merrick Garland, Department of Justice and Director Christopher Wray, Federal Bureau of Investigation, (Jul. 18, 2022), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_justice_dept_fbi - political_bias.pdf.

² Press Release, *Grassley, Johnson Make Public Whistleblower Records Revealing DOJ and FBI Plot to Pin Trump in Jack Smith Elector Case*, (Jan. 30, 2025), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/rep/releases/grassley-johnson-make-public-whistleblower-records-revealing-doj-and-fbi-plot-to-pin-trump-in-jack-smith-elector-case>; Prepared Floor Statement, *Grassley Underscores FBI Supervisor Misconduct in Trump-Targeted Arctic Frost Investigation*, (Feb. 3, 2025) <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/rep/releases/grassley-underscores-fbi-supervisor-misconduct-in-trump-targeted-arctic-frost-investigation>.

Committee FBI oversight hearing.³ At this hearing, I asked “Was the Clinton investigation named Operation Midyear because it needed to be finished before the Democratic National Convention? If so, why the artificial deadline? If not, why was that the name?”⁴ Then-Director Comey responded:

Certainly not because it had to be finished by a particular date. There’s an art and a science to how we come up with codenames for cases. They assure me it’s done randomly. Sometimes I see ones that make me smile, so I’m not sure. But I can assure you that it was called Midyear Exam, was the name of the case. I can assure you the name was not selected for any nefarious purpose or because of any timing on the investigation.⁵

Yet, the renaming of the Trump investigation from “Hyperbolic Frost” to “Arctic Frost” via handwritten notes is clearly anything but random.

Please produce all records relating to the naming of Operation Midyear Exam including former Director Comey’s emails.

Thank you for your prompt review and responses. If you have any questions, please contact my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

³ Senate Judiciary Committee, *Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation*, (May 3, 2017) <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/05/03/2017/oversight-of-the-federal-bureau-of-investigation>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*