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Duncan Hunter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
50th District, California

March 10, 2015

Director James Comey  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Comey:

I continue to have significant concerns with hostage recovery efforts under the purview of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In fact, I have made multiple attempts to communicate these concerns with you but my office has been told that since I am not a member of a relevant committee, you and your staff are unwilling to discuss specifics. Next week, I intend to introduce legislation creating an interagency coordinator to better lead the recovery of Americans in hostile areas, effectively removing the FBI as the lead government organization. And I will work to offer this legislation during consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act.

This legislation is motivated by the FBI's efforts in several cases—including the case of Caitlan Coleman and her family still in captivity in the Afghanistan/Pakistan region. I have made multiple attempts to alert the FBI and the Administration to opportunities for coordination within the Department of Defense. Regrettably, nothing has materialized outside the ongoing hostage policy review.

Also, I was dismayed to learn that the FBI insisted that an investigation be initiated against one uniformed individual within the Defense Department. The allegation is that information should not be shared with Congress. When the soldier's immediate chain of command declined to take action, the FBI then approached another element of command--specifically, General Mary Legere, sources have indicated. As you might know, I have been critical of General Legere's leadership on a major program of record and opposed her nomination to the Defense Intelligence Agency. After stating my concerns to the Secretary of Defense, her name was withdrawn.

As described, this investigation against this particular soldier is strictly retaliatory, and I have communicated, in writing, my concerns to the Army. In doing so, I was joined by a colleague of mine who shares similar concerns. Due to the seriousness of this case and the FBI's involvement, I believe it would be beneficial to discuss this issue—given that the FBI has reached over to the Defense Department and coordinated with elements of command—given my role on the House Armed Services Committee. I await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Duncan Hunter

Member of Congress