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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4209**

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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February 17, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte,

At yesterday's press conference, President Trump accused the press of being, "dishonest people."<sup>1</sup>

At the same time he claimed that his 2016 victory was, "the biggest electoral college win since Ronald Regan."<sup>2</sup> When NBC News reporter Peter Alexander noted that President Obama received more electoral votes in both of his elections than President Trump, Mr. Trump said he was only talking about Republican presidents.<sup>3</sup>

When NBC's Alexander pointed out that President George H.W. Bush received more electoral that President Trump, he refused to acknowledge the inaccuracy of his claim, saying only that, "I was given that information. Actually I've seen that information around."<sup>4</sup>

As you recall, earlier this week during the House Judiciary Committee's consideration of the committee's oversight plan for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, I introduced an amendment to ensure that the committee would investigate attempts by the White House or other parts of the executive branch to undermine freedom of the press.

Unfortunately, my amendment was defeated.

<sup>1</sup> <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/320049-trump-fake-media-not-happy-with-press-conference>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-s-electoral-college-win-was-not-biggest-reagan-n722016>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/02/trump-press-conference-peter-alexander-fact-check-235095>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-s-electoral-college-win-was-not-biggest-reagan-n722016>

In light of the President's conduct at his press conference yesterday, I believe it is more important now than ever that our committee work vigilantly to protect freedom of the press. Toward that end, I respectfully urge you to reconsider my amendment. I am willing to work with you and your staff to arrive at mutually agreeable language.

Thank you for your consideration.

As always, I remain,  
Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Cohen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

cc The Honorable John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member  
cc The Honorable Steve King, Chairman, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice