

Trump to send Pelosi a letter ‘daring’ her to hold impeachment inquiry vote

The White House will send House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., a letter as early as Friday “daring” her to hold a vote on Democrats’ impeachment inquiry into President Trump, Fox News has confirmed.

The letter will say the White House won’t comply with the Democrats’ investigation because Pelosi hasn’t codified the probe with a formal vote on the House floor. Its tone will be consistent with that of the letter House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., sent to the speaker on Thursday, Fox learned.

MCCARTHY CALLS ON PELOSI TO SUSPEND TRUMP IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY, ACCUSES HER OF ‘RECKLESSNESS’

In his letter, McCarthy called on Pelosi to end the impeachment inquiry until “equitable rules and procedures” are set up.



Kevin McCarthy@GOPLeader

I’ve written to Speaker Pelosi to halt the impeachment inquiry until we can receive public answers to the following questions. Given the enormity of the question at hand—impeaching a duly elected president—the American public deserves fairness and transparency.



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6530

October 3, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-235, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Speaker Pelosi:

I am writing to request you suspend all efforts surrounding your "impeachment inquiry" until transparent and equitable rules and procedures are established to govern the inquiry, as is customary.

As you know, there have been only three prior instances in our nation's history when the full House has moved to formally investigate whether sufficient grounds exist for the impeachment of a sitting President. I should hope that if such an extraordinary step were to be contemplated a fourth time it would be conducted with an eye towards fairness, objectivity, and impartiality.

Unfortunately, you have given no clear indication as to how your impeachment inquiry will proceed—including whether key historical precedents or basic standards of due process will be observed. In addition, the swiftness and recklessness with which you have proceeded has already resulted in committee chairs attempting to limit minority participation in scheduled interviews, calling into question the integrity of such an inquiry.

Below are several questions to which I request a public response before the House of Representatives moves forward:

- Do you intend to hold a vote of the full House authorizing your impeachment inquiry?¹
- Do you intend to involve the full House in each critical step of this inquiry, including defining its scope and establishing its rules and procedures?²

¹ For the impeachment of President Clinton, the full House authorized a formal impeachment inquiry by a vote of 298-176. *See* H. Res. 381, 106th Cong. (1998). For the impeachment of President Nixon, the full House authorized a formal impeachment inquiry by a vote of 410-4. *See* H. Res. 801, 93rd Cong. (1974).

² The Committee Report accompanying H. Res. 741 stated: "Because impeachment is delegated solely to the House of Representatives by the Constitution, the full House of Representatives should be involved in critical decision making regarding various stages of impeachment."³

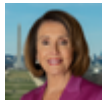
"Unfortunately, you have given no clear indication as to how your impeachment inquiry will proceed — including whether key historical precedents or basic standards of due process will be observed," McCarthy wrote. "In addition, the swiftness and recklessness with which you have proceeded [have] already resulted in committee chairs attempting to limit minority participation in

scheduled interviews, calling into question the integrity of such an inquiry.”

McCarthy referred to reports that House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., was limiting Republicans’ ability to ask questions during Thursday’s testimony by former U.S. envoy to Ukraine Kurt Volker, who resigned last week.

Pelosi shot back at McCarthy, saying that “existing rules of the House provide House committees with full authority to conduct investigations for all matters under their jurisdiction.”

She later tweeted: “The fact that the [House Republicans’] loyalty is to Trump and not to the Constitution is not going to slow down or impair our ability to keep the republic of our founders envisioned.”



Nancy Pelosi@SpeakerPelosi

The fact that the @HouseGOP's loyalty is to Trump and not to the Constitution is not going to slow down or impair our ability to keep the republic our Founders envisioned. #TruthExposed



The letter prompted a response from President Trump, who tweeted Thursday: "Leader McCarthy, we look forward to you soon becoming Speaker of the House. The Do Nothing Dems don't have a chance!"



Donald J. Trump@realDonaldTrump

Leader McCarthy, we look forward to you soon becoming Speaker of the House. The Do Nothing Dems don't have a chance! <https://twitter.com/gopleader/status/1179778155340603392> ...

Kevin McCarthy@GOPLeader

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- Do you intend to grant co-equal subpoena power to both the Chair and Ranking Member at the committee level?
- Do you intend to require that all subpoenas be subject to a vote of the full committee at the request of either the Chair or Ranking Member?
- Do you intend to provide the President's counsel the right to attend all hearings and depositions?
- Do you intend to provide the President's counsel the right to present evidence?
- Do you intend to provide the President's counsel the right to object to the admittance of evidence?
- Do you intend to provide the President's counsel the right to cross-examine witnesses?
- Do you intend to provide the President's counsel the right to recommend a witness list?
- Do you intend to refer all findings on impeachment to Chairman Nadler and the Judiciary Committee, as prescribed by Rule X of the Rules of the House, or is Chairman Schiff in charge of leading this inquiry, as has been reported in the press?

By answering "no" to any of the above, you would be acting in direct contradiction to all modern impeachment inquiries of a sitting president. By answering "no" to any of the above, you would be denying the President the bare minimum rights granted to his predecessors. By answering "no" to any of the above, you would create a process completely devoid of any merit or legitimacy.

At a news conference yesterday you insisted, "we have to be fair to the President." If those words are taken to be sincere, the American people deserve assurance that basic standards of due process will be present. Given the enormity of the question at hand – the removal of a duly-elected sitting President – anything less than a thorough, transparent, and fair process would represent a supreme insult to our Constitution and the millions of Americans who rely on their voices being heard through our democratic system of government.

I look forward to your prompt response on this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader

House Democrats launched an impeachment inquiry into Trump after a whistleblower complaint suggested the president took part in a quid pro quo scheme during a July 25 phone call with his Ukrainian counterpart, using \$400 million in military aid as leverage to induce officials there to investigate Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden, his son Hunter and their business dealings in that country.

TRUMP BLASTS DEM IMPEACHMENT PUSH AS A 'COUP,' CLAIMS IT IS INTENDED TO TAKE AWAY THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE

Trump has said his call with President Volodymyr Zelensky was "perfect." On Thursday, he repeated his contention that the Democrats' investigation "the greatest witch hunt in the history of our country."

Trump said there “wasn’t anything said wrong” in his phone call with Zelensky and called the impeachment probe a “Democrat scam.”



Donald J. Trump@realDonaldTrump

There wasn't ANYTHING said wrong in my conversation with the Ukrainian President. This is a Democrat Scam!

He later tweeted that, as president, he has an “absolute right, perhaps even a duty, to investigate or have investigated corruption, and that would include asking or suggesting other countries to help us out!”



Donald J. Trump@realDonaldTrump

As the President of the United States, I have an absolute right, perhaps even a duty, to investigate, or have investigated, CORRUPTION, and that would include asking, or suggesting, other Countries to help us out!

Schiff made a formal request on Sept. 10 to transmit the whistleblower complaint to Congress. Trump has said Schiff is a “lowlife” who should resign.

Biden took a pointed jab at President Trump on Thursday night amid the back-and-forth over the impeachment inquiry, tweeting, “The idea of Donald Trump attacking anyone’s integrity is a joke.”



Joe Biden@JoeBiden

The idea of Donald Trump attacking anyone's integrity is a joke.

A senior Democratic aide told Fox News on Thursday, “As we continue to follow the facts, it would behoove the president to come up with something more persuasive than Kevin McCarthy’s pathetic and bogus process arguments,” following reports of the White House’s letter to Pelosi, first reported by Axios.

“Given that the president just this morning on national television urged yet another foreign government to meddle in our upcoming 2020 elections, we would think the White House would want to mount a rigorous defense of the president’s clear betrayal of his oath of office,” the aide said.

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Fox News’ Chad Pergram and Andrew O’Reilly contributed to this report.

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