Dear Honorable Committee Members:

The undersigned Attorneys General write to express our grave concern over the threat to the integrity of the American election system. As the latest investigations and indictments make clear, during the 2016 election, hackers within Russia's military intelligence service not only targeted state and local election boards, but also successfully invaded a state election website to steal the sensitive information of approximately 500,000 American voters and infiltrated a company that supplies voting software across the United States.

The allegations in these indictments are extremely troubling. They evidence technologically vulnerable election infrastructures and the existence of a malicious foreign actor eager to exploit these vulnerabilities. Moreover, it has never been more important to maintain confidence in our democratic voting process. It is imperative that we protect the integrity of our elections. We must ensure that the upcoming 2018 midterm elections are secure and untainted. Accordingly, we ask for your assistance in shoring up our systems so that we may protect our elections from foreign attacks and interference by:

- Prioritizing and acting on election-security legislation. We understand that the Secure Elections Act (S.2261) is before the Senate at this time and may address some of our concerns.

- Increasing funding for the Election Assistance Commission to support election security improvements at the state level and to protect the personal data of the voters of our states. We are concerned that many states lack the resources and tools they need to protect the polls. Additional funding for voting infrastructure will not only allow states to upgrade election systems, but will also allow for a comprehensive security risk assessment. Unfortunately, past practice has shown that the existing Election Assistance Commission grants are simply insufficient to provide for the upgraded technology needed. More
funding is essential to adequately equip states with the financial resources we need to safeguard our democracy and protect the data of voting members in our states.

- Supporting the development of cybersecurity standards for voting systems to prevent potential future foreign attacks. It is critical that there be a combined effort between governments and security experts to protect against the increased cyber threats posed by foreign entities seeking to weaken our institutions.

These changes are essential in order to strengthen public trust in our electoral system. The integrity of the nation’s voting infrastructure is a bipartisan issue, and one that affects not only the national political landscape, but elections at the state, county, municipal, and local levels. It is our hope that you agree, and will take swift action to protect our national legacy of fair and free elections.

Respectfully,

Hector Balderas  
Attorney General of New Mexico

Xavier Becerra  
Attorney General of California

George Jepsen  
Attorney General of Connecticut

Matthew P. Denn  
Attorney General of Delaware

Karl Racine  
Attorney General for the District of Columbia

Russell Suzuki  
Attorney General of Hawaii
Lisa Madigan  
Attorney General of Illinois  

Thomas J. Miller  
Attorney General of Iowa  

Janet Mills  
Attorney General of Maine  

Brian Frosh  
Attorney General of Maryland  

Maura Healy  
Attorney General of Massachusetts  

Bill Schuette  
Attorney General of Michigan  

Lori Swanson  
Attorney General of Minnesota  

Jim Hood  
Attorney General of Mississippi  

Gurbir Grewal  
Attorney General of New Jersey  

Barbara D. Underwood  
Attorney General of New York
Josh Stein  
Attorney General of North Carolina

Ellen Rosenblum  
Attorney General of Oregon

Peter F. Kilmartin  
Attorney General of Rhode Island

Mark R. Herring  
Attorney General of Virginia

Bob Ferguson  
Attorney General of Washington