

January 18, 2022

The Honorable David S. Ferriero Archivist of the United States U.S. National Archives and Records Administration Washington, D.C.

Mr. Ferriero,

I write concerning requests for documents and records sent to the National Archives and Records Administration ("NARA") on March 25, 2021 and August 25, 2021, by the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol (the "Committee"). The Committee requested an extremely broad set of documents and records, potentially numbering in the millions, which unquestionably contain information protected from disclosure by the executive and other privileges, including but not limited to the presidential communications, deliberative process, and attorney-client privileges.

On December 8, 2021, NARA noticed the first set of Vice Presidential records for review (the "First VP Notification"). Following a review of such records, pursuant to the Presidential Records Act, Executive Order 13489, and 36 CFR 1270.44, I have determined that the following records contain information subject to executive privilege, including the presidential communications and deliberative process privileges, and I hereby formally assert executive privilege over these records:

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079VP-N000061934
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Certain documents included in the First VP Notification may be subject to other privileges, including without limitation the attorney-client and work-product privileges. To the extent required, any attorney-client or other privilege is not waived and a further review may be required depending on the outcome of the process provided for under the Presidential Records Act, 36 CFR 1270.44, and Executive Order 13489.

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Finally, pursuant to the Presidential Records Act, Executive Order 13489, and 36 CFR 1270.44, I hereby make a protective assertion of constitutionally based privilege with respect to all additional records following the First VP Notification. In cases like this, where Congress has declined to grant sufficient time to conduct a full review, there is a longstanding bipartisan tradition of protective assertions of executive privilege designed to ensure the ability to make a final privilege assertion, if necessary, over some or all of the requested material. See Protective Assertion of Executive Privilege Regarding White House Counsel's Office Documents, 20 Op. O.L.C. 1 (1996) (opinion of Attorney General Janet Reno). This protective assertion is intended to ensure that I have the ability to make a final assertion of executive privilege, if necessary and appropriate, following a full review of the requested materials. See Letter for the President from William P. Barr, Attorney General, at 1–2 (May 8, 2019).

Sincerely,