



**Representative K. Michael Conaway Opening Statement**  
Open Hearing on Investigation of Russian Active Measures  
*House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*

May 23, 2017

Thank you again, Mr. Brennan, for appearing today. As you know, this Committee has an incredible responsibility to the American public. We are charged with getting to the bottom of the facts regarding Russia's involvement in the 2016 election and what, if any, steps were taken by the U.S. Government to prevent such interference in our election. It is my hope that your testimony today will assist both our and the American public's understanding of the facts surrounding any Russian Active Measures during last year's presidential election.

As the former Director of the CIA, you have vital knowledge of the events and activities of last year, and were a key player in the preparation of the Intelligence Community Assessment regarding Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent U.S. Elections published in January 2017. You are one of a handful of former U.S. Government officials that can assist this Committee with understanding the events that took place, and the judgements rendered by the Intelligence Community regarding those matters.

In particular, I am hopeful you will discuss your understanding of the ongoing Russian threat and the actions that were taken by the Obama Administration to counter it. This Committee was focused on Russian aggression long before the 2016 election, so it is disheartening to wonder why more action was not taken sooner. I hope you add some insight on this important matter.

Every day, the American public is bombarded with news reporting about Russian interference in the election. Many of these reports are false or misleading. Today is an opportunity to focus on the truth. And the truth can only be found through a full and fair investigation of all the facts.

This Committee has a vital duty to the American public to conduct comprehensive bipartisan oversight of the Intelligence Community, and to follow the facts wherever they lead. To that end, your testimony today will greatly help us meet this solemn obligation.

And with that, I recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Schiff, for five minutes, for any opening comments he would like to make.