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June 22, 2015

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
House of Representatives
Select Committee on Benghazi
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6090

Dear Chairman Gowdy:

Thank you for your letter dated June 22, 2015. The Committee's Chief Counsel informed me that it was intended to respond to my letter to you dated June 19, 2015.

I understand from your letter that the Select Committee on Benghazi has released my client, Sidney Blumenthal's, emails to the public today. I also understand that this is the first time the Committee has ever released documents to the public. Given the unprecedented nature of the document release, it is even more imperative that the Committee release the full transcript of Mr. Blumenthal's deposition along with his emails.

As I stated in my letter to you on June 19, there have already been a number of leaks from staff and members of the Committee that mischaracterized Mr. Blumenthal's testimony. Even in your June 22 letter you state that Mr. Blumenthal was "tasked with placing articles about Benghazi" when he testified that he was not tasked to do so. By releasing the emails without the transcript, I am concerned that the unfair mischaracterizations will only continue and perhaps get worse. This is unfair to my client, to the work of the Committee, and to the public. Only by releasing the transcript can the Committee provide context to the emails and clarify the misconceptions and mischaracterizations that have been allowed to permeate this record. Transparency and fairness demand that the transcript be released along with the emails.

Sincerely,

James M. Cole

cc: The Honorable Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member

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