



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2019

The Honorable Russell Travers
Acting Director
National Counterterrorism Center
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Acting Director Travers:

I was dismayed to learn that you have recently withdrawn your acceptance of the Committee's invitation to appear at a hearing entitled "Global Terrorism: Threats to the Homeland" on October 30, 2019, and urge you to reconsider.

The Committee has a longstanding practice of holding an annual hearing to examine threats to the homeland, and the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) Director has routinely participated. This year's hearing was originally planned to coincide with the commemoration of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The Committee delayed the hearing because Administration witnesses, including you, agreed to appear on October 30. Given NCTC's longstanding participation in this annual hearing and your commitment to participating this year just a few short weeks ago, your sudden reversal is rather curious.

The Committee is fully aware that some matters cannot be discussed in an open setting and Members remain prepared to discuss any such matters in an appropriate setting after the hearing. As such, there is no legitimate reason for you to decline to participate in the hearing. Again, I urge you to reconsider and look forward to your testimony on October 30.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson".

Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman