



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20463

1
2 **MEMORANDUM**

3
4 **TO:** The Commission
5
6 **FROM:** Lisa J. Stevenson
7 Acting General Counsel
8
9 Charles Kitcher
10 Associate General Counsel for Enforcement
11
12 **BY:** Jin Lee *JK*
13 Acting Assistant General Counsel
14
15 Claudio Pavia *CP*
16 Acting Assistant General Counsel
17
18 Amanda Andrade *AA by JK*
19 Attorney
20
21 Nicholas Bamman *NB*
22 Attorney
23
24 **SUBJECT:** MUR 7207 (Taub)
25 Recommendation to Accept Signed Conciliation Agreement
26

27
28 On June 10, 2021, the Commission authorized the Office of General Counsel to engage in
29 pre-probable cause conciliation with H. Russell Taub to settle violations of 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a)
30 and 11 C.F.R. § 110.20(g) after the Commission found reason to believe that Taub knowingly
31 solicited, accepted, and received prohibited foreign national contributions.¹ A Twitter direct
32 message transcript and emails show that Taub, a 2016
33 congressional candidate, asked Guccifer 2.0, a hacker persona controlled by Russian military
34 intelligence, for a donor list, and that Guccifer 2.0 responded by providing Taub with opposition

¹ Certification ¶ 3, MUR 7207 (June 11, 2021); Factual & Legal Analysis at 10, MUR 7207; *see also* Certification ¶ 4(a), MUR 7207 (Apr. 26, 2021) (finding reason to believe that an Unknown Congressional Candidate violated 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 110.2(g)); Certification ¶ 1, MUR 7207 (June 11, 2021) (substituting the name H. Russell Taub in the place of “Unknown Congressional Candidate” in the Commission’s previous findings in this matter).

MUR 7207 (Taub)
Memorandum to the Commission
Page 3 of 3

1 We therefore believe this settlement represents an acceptable resolution of the matter and
2 recommend that the Commission accept the signed conciliation agreement with Taub.⁶
3

4 **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 5 1. Accept the signed conciliation agreement with H. Russell Taub;
6
7 2. Approve the appropriate letters; and
8
9 3. Close the file as to H. Russell Taub.
10

11
12
13

⁶ We note that, on June 1, 2021, this Office circulated a memorandum recommending that the Commission open a new MUR with Taub (then known as Unknown Congressional Candidate) as the respondent, approve revised Factual and Legal Analyses as to the Internet Research Agency and the Russian Federation, and close the file. Those recommendations are still pending with the Commission and, therefore, Taub remains a respondent in MUR 7207 until such time that the Commission votes to open a new MUR.