

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL & U.S. MAIL

July 15, 2016

The Honorable Carolyn N. Lerner
The Special Counsel
U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036-4505

RE: OSC File No. HA-16-3113

Dear Ms. Lerner:

I have received your analysis of an interview I provided to Yahoo! News last April.

In responding to a journalist's question about the 2016 election, I offered my opinion to the interviewer after making it clear that I was articulating my personal view and not an official position. At the time, I believed that this disclaimer was what was required by the Hatch Act. However, your analysis provides that it was not sufficient.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. When an error is made – even an inadvertent one – the error should be acknowledged. Although it was not my intent, I made one here.

I appreciate your staff's diligence and professionalism in assessing the content of the interview and the circumstances surrounding it, as well as the clarifications of law that your team provided. As a result, I tasked the Executive Team with enhancing training of the Act's requirements and adjusting how these types of journalistic interviews are handled in the future.

Regards,



Julián Castro