August 13, 2018 Eric Babson babson@math.ucdavis.edu 1094 Cragmont Avenue Berkeley CA, 94708

## Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about the firing of Special Agent Strzok. Free elections and free speech are the corner stones of democracy. Our free elections are being threatened both by outside interference and by suppression of voting rights. Our free speech is being threatened both by incessant attacks on the press and now also by direct persecution based on clearly protected speech. The political nature of this firing will have a chilling effect on speech. As private conversations - such as the email exchange which cost Mr Strzok his job or the spoken conversations which you and various members of your administration are notorious for secretly recording - are used to upend peoples lives our country moves another step toward autocracy where criticisms of the regime must only be whispered.

Please assure me that you will respect free speech.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from the first amendment.

Sincerely, Eric Babson