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Senator Mitch McConnell
Senator Charles Schumer

Dear Senators McConnell and Schumer,

President Trump wants and deserves a full trial in the Senate.

It would give him the opportunity to present new evidence, possibly including an actual recording and precise transcript of the July 25 call with President Zelensky of Ukraine.

In the White House transcript of his press conference of December 13 (see below), President Trump says, "I wouldn't mind a long process because I'd like to see the whistleblower, who's a fraud — the whistleblower wrote a false report, and I really blew it up when I released the transcript of the call."

The Senate will set the rules for the impeachment trial, but the President is entitled to his own defense, and even to appearing at the open trial. He could also provide additional evidence by authorizing staff to testify at the trial.

"Now, had I not had a transcript — I'm lucky we had this transcript, which, by the way, has now been verified by the Lieutenant Colonel — Lieutenant Colonel, okay?"

When I would speak with reporters on sensitive topics in the 1960s and 1970s, I would announce that I was recording the call and hoped they were, too. If you call your bank, you hear "This call is being recorded." And when I now call non-US persons abroad, I believe my call is being recorded-- perhaps by several organizations. I was formally appointed to advisory positions by Republican and Democratic presidents.

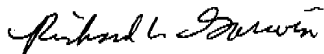
The call from the White House to President Zelensky was probably recorded by Ukraine, and also by several others. A simple, open request by the President Trump to President Zelensky could elicit this full recording (seemingly twice the duration of the reconstructed transcript) to help the President's defense against one charge of impeachment.

The White House transcript of December 13 has President Trump saying about the July 25 call,

"For these people to say "me" — they would say "me." "You said, 'Do me a favor.'" No, it [probably "I"] didn't say that. It [probably "I"] said, "Do us a favor — our country." Talking about the past election. Talking about corruption."

If "me" vs. "us" makes a difference, it could be resolved by a recording of the July 25th calls, if one exists.

Not recording one's own call with a foreign official gives advantage to the other side, who can be expected to have a precise record of what was said; Presidents or other officials can avoid such vulnerability by preserving the digital audio record of the call.



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(See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-president-abdo-benitez-republic-paraguay-bilateral-meeting/>)

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