

# U.S. Sen. Johnson: Reveals defense agency and Georgia tech research may have targeted RNC, DNC networks without their knowledge

Posted on Friday, Aug 11, 2023

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

**WASHINGTON** – On Wednesday, U.S. Sens. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), ranking member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), ranking member of the Committee on the Budget, wrote to Dr. Stephanie Tompkins, director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), regarding a recently uncovered email that exposed a project targeting Republican National Committee (RNC) and Democratic National Committee (DNC) networks.

The senators uncovered a Sept. 25, 2020 [email between a Georgia Institute of Technology researcher and DARPA employees](#) suggesting a plan to target the DNC and RNC networks. A DARPA employee referred to the project as “sensitive stuff . . . worth doing.” Further, the email appears to suggest that this examination was to be conducted without the prior knowledge of the RNC or DNC.

“This email exchange raises questions about the work of the [Enhanced Attribution] program and government employees responsible for it,” **the senators wrote** in their letter to DARPA Director Tompkins.

This letter follows the senators’ [April 28, 2022 letter](#) to DARPA about its reported collaboration with Georgia Tech related to the 2016 DNC server hack attribution. DARPA has failed to fully respond to this inquiry.

On May 12, 2023, Special Counsel John Durham [referred](#) to two DARPA-related matters to the Defense Department Inspector General and the Defense Intelligence

Agency for further review – one involving a Georgia Tech contract and one involving “irregular conduct in 2016 of two former employees of the Department of Defense.”

The full letter can be found [here](#).

Read more about the senators’ August 9, 2023 letter to Director Tompkins in the [Daily Mail](#).