MEMO

FROM: Brian Fallon, Hillary for America National Press Secretary
TO: Friends and Allies
DATE: April 23, 2015
RE: It's Official: Book Attacking Hillary Clinton Full of Discredited, Disproved Attacks

By this point, you've heard plenty about the forthcoming smear project that has generated excitement among the people most desperate to tear down Hillary Clinton. Rand Paul has repeatedly hyped its attacks, and Sean Hannity has suggested it will be a bombshell. We already know that the author has longstanding conservative ties, from working for George W. Bush to writing for Breitbart.com.

Now, the dust is beginning to settle on some of his specific absurd attacks.

As the truth comes to light, it's bad news for both the author and the Republicans taking part in his coordinated attack on Hillary Clinton. Simply put: his accusations are proving to be completely devoid of evidence -- even by the author's own admission.

The bottom line remains that the book fails to produce a shred of evidence supporting the theory that Hillary Clinton ever took action as Secretary of State for the purposes of supporting the interests of donors to the Clinton Foundation

Let's take a look at how his baseless claims are already being discredited by independent news agencies...

According to TIME Magazine, one of the book's primary accusations "is based on little evidence" with allegations "presented as questions rather than proof," all while finding "no indication of Hillary Clinton's personal involvement in, or even knowledge of, the deliberations."

- "The new book...says that Hillary Clinton failed in 2010 to block the purchase of American uranium mines by a Russian-backed company while people with financial and strategic interests in the sale were making millions of dollars of donations to the Clinton Foundation, a philanthropy run by her husband, former President Bill Clinton. The suggestion of outside influence over U.S. decision making is based on little evidence—the allegations are presented as questions rather than proof. The deal's approval was the result of an extensive inter-agency process that required the assent of at least nine different officials and agencies. A former State Department official who participated in the deal's approval told TIME that Clinton did not weigh in on the uranium sale one way or the other, and her campaign calls the allegations in the book, 'absurd conspiracy theories.'" [TIME, 4/22/15]

- "The State Department's role in approving the deal was part of an extensive bureaucratic process, and the chapter offers no indication of Hillary Clinton's personal involvement in, or even knowledge of, the deliberations. State has just one vote on the nine-member committee, which also includes the departments of Defense, Treasury, and Energy. Disagreements are traditionally handled at the staff level, and if they are not resolved, they are escalated to deputies at the relevant agencies. If the deputies can't resolve the dispute, the issues can be elevated to the cabinet secretary level and, if needed, to the president for a decision. The official chairman of CFIUS is the Treasury Secretary, not the Secretary of State." [TIME, 4/22/15]
- "One official involved in the process said Clinton had nothing to do with the decision in the Uranium One case. Jose Hernandez, who as former Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs was the State Department's principal representative on the committee, rejected the notion that Clinton's Foundation ties had any bearing on the deal. 'Secretary Clinton never intervened with me on any CFIUS matter,' he told TIME." [TIME, 4/22/15]

On yet another of his primary attacks, Yahoo News points out that the author "marshals circumstantial evidence" only to find "no smoking gun."

- "In a chapter obtained by Yahoo News, Schweizer marshals circumstantial evidence to suggest that Sweden-based global telecommunications giant Ericsson effectively influenced Hillary to spare it from punishing economic sanctions for doing business with Iran by paying $750,000 to Bill Clinton to speak at a Nov. 12, 2011, telecom conference in Hong Kong. There is, however, no smoking gun." [Yahoo News, 4/22/15]

According to The Daily Beast, the author relies on a faulty, conspiracy-laden timeline to make another of his main accusations.

- "The man whose business interests the Colombia deal apparently advanced was named Frank Giustra… Giustra gave the Clinton Foundation $131 million—$31 million in 2006, and another $100 million pledged that same year that he made good on over the next three years, up through 2008. Now, 2008, you will recall, was when Hillary Clinton was running for president. It would stand to reason, would it not, that if Clinton was so intent on advancing Giustra's Colombian business interests, she would have been for the trade deal at the exact moment Giustra finished paying her husband $131 million? But she was against it as a candidate, and implacably so! That's not exactly the position of someone shilling for a donor, but I suppose if you're a committed enough Clintonologist, you can turn it all into a conspiracy… So then she became Secretary of State. And, indeed, she did start supporting it—but after that became the administration's position… Now, for Clinton to have known in 2008 that all this would play out to Frank Giustra's benefit, she would have had to have known that Obama

was going to beat John McCain and, rather more improbably than that, that Obama was going to appoint her to be his Secretary of State." [The Daily Beast, 4/22/15]

Politico also questions the book's false accusation on this issue as being supported by "little evidence."

- "While stopping short of a direct accusation, the chapter, entitled 'Rainforest Riches,' implies there was a blurred line between Bill Clinton's charity work and Hillary Clinton's work at the State Department — ultimately leading to her support of the trade deal. But Schweizer presents little evidence that Clinton's support of the trade deal was directly linked to Guistra's contributions or to his close relationship with Bill Clinton." [Politico, 4/22/15]

Additionally, according to ThinkProgress, the author "explains he cannot prove the allegations" on another claim and even relies on a two year-old *fake* TD Bank press release to support one of his attacks.

- "Schweizer also fingers Bill Clinton's speaking fees, a favorite target in conservative circles, as a potential avenue to influence Hillary. He links the timing of the State Department's generally positive report on the Keystone XL Pipeline with a slew of Clinton speeches paid for by TD Bank, a major shareholder in the project. As proof of how crucial Clinton's support for the pipeline was to the bank, Schweizer quotes a press release that claimed TD Bank would 'begin selling its $1.6 billion worth of shares in the massive but potentially still-born Keystone XL crude pipeline project' after Clinton left office. The press release was quickly revealed to be fake in 2013. Yet Schweizer, apparently unaware of the hoax, remarks, 'Too bad for TD Bank. But the Clintons got paid regardless.'" [ThinkProgress, 4/21/15]

Republicans, their allies, and the people desperately trying to tear down Hillary Clinton will continue to rely on this book's false attacks and conspiracy theories, but bit by bit, the truth will come to light. This isn't the first baseless smear against Hillary Clinton, and it certainly won't be the last.

So while Republicans latch onto even the most far-fetched theories in an attempt to try to cut Hillary Clinton down, her focus will remain how to help everyday Americans get ahead and stay ahead.