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U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of the Pardon Attorney  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
RFK Main Justice Building  
Washington DC 20530

Dear Office of the Pardon Attorney staff,

I'm a substitute teacher for Seattle Public Schools and a freelance writer. For Buffalo NY's alt-weekly *The Public*, I reported<sup>1</sup> in person from the sentencing of Putingate whistleblower Reality Leigh Winner, Bureau of Prisons register number 22056-021, who moved to three years of supervised release on November 23, 2021. At my personal website, I have blogged multiple entries<sup>2</sup> covering her ongoing story.

On December 5, 60 Minutes interviewed<sup>3</sup> Reality Winner and told a countrywide audience about her pardon application. Winner warned everyone about Russian military hackers' cyberattacks against U.S. voting infrastructure just days before the 2016 presidential election. The information<sup>4</sup> she leaked to *The Intercept*<sup>5</sup> was part of the last count in former special counsel Robert Mueller's "12 Russians" indictment<sup>6</sup>. The Election Assistance Commission, in an effort to protect integrity of the voting systems, immediately amplified the information she provided upon its publication, going so far as to hashtag her name in their tweet<sup>7</sup>.

The U.S. president will decide whether to pardon Winner (or anyone else) "guided when he sees fit by the advice of the Pardon Attorney."<sup>8</sup> President Biden of course spoke with Vladimir Putin on December 7, so surely the gravity of the global situation is understood by the White House. A pardon for this whistleblower who before the judge took responsibility for her action would send a very strong signal domestically and internationally that the United States does not support Trump/Putin-style autocracy. Early in December, I showed my social studies classes the Reuters footage<sup>9</sup> of President Biden meeting with Putin. Students said Putin looked fearless and Biden looked scared. I hope your office will advise the president to pardon Reality Leigh Winner so I can tell students otherwise.

She deserves it very much. And so does the United States and the worldwide public.

Sincerely,



DOUGLAS LUCAS

1 <http://www.dailypublic.com/articles/08242018/reality-winner-sentenced-63-months>

2 <https://douglaslucas.com/blog/category/activism/realitywinner/>

3 <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/reality-winner-60-minutes-2021-12-03/>

4 <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3766950-NSA-Report-on-Russia-Spearphishing>

5 <https://theintercept.com/2017/06/05/top-secret-nsa-report-details-russian-hacking-effort-days-before-2016-election/>

6 <https://www.justice.gov/file/1080281/download>

7 <https://twitter.com/EACgov/status/872174669872410625>

8 <https://www.justice.gov/pardon/frequently-asked-questions>

9 <https://www.reuters.com/video/watch/idOVF71NQ3J>