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**From:** Murray, Shailagh <shailagh\_murray@ovp.eop.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 17, 2014 12:00 AM  
**To:** robinware456@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Fw: WSJ: Biden's Son Hunter Discharged From Navy Reserve After Failing Cocaine Test

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Wed Nov 23 12:00:44 EST 2022

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

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P5

Notes:

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Case ID: LA 2022-0121-F

Additional Information:

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Obtained by America First Legal Foundation

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**From:** Barkoff, Kendra <kendra\_a\_barkoff@ovp.eop.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 11:50 AM  
**To:** Prescott, Jeffrey; Sullivan, Jacob; Murray, Shailagh; Ricchetti, Steven; Lambros, Demetra; Hertz, Jessica R.; Ricchetti, Steven; Hertz, Jessica R.; Murray, Shailagh; Sullivan, Jacob; Lambros, Demetra; Prescott, Jeffrey  
**Subject:** Fw: Joe Biden's son joining the board of a Ukrainian natural gas company

---

**From:** Max Seddon [mailto:max.seddon@buzzfeed.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 11:47 AM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra  
**Subject:** Re: Joe Biden's son joining the board of a Ukrainian natural gas company

Hi Kendra,

Am about to get on a plane so just wanted to send you a couple other questions: Ukrainian media have reported Mr. Zlochinsky is on a visa ban list. Is this true? Did the VP or any of his people meet with Burisma representatives while he was in Ukraine and discuss this? Why does the Burisma site seem so proud of its apparent connections to the Biden family, including from before today's announcement? What, if anything, has the VP discussed with Hunter about Burisma, Mr. Zlochinsky, or other matters related to the Ukrainian gas industry?

Thanks in advance - will be online again in about two hours or so. Phone is +380684586856

Best

Max

On Tuesday, May 13, 2014, Lucas Magnuson, Laura <[Laura\\_D\\_Lucas@nsc.eop.gov](mailto:Laura_D_Lucas@nsc.eop.gov)> wrote:

Hi, Max. Adding the VP's office to respond to your query. Best, Laura

-----Original Message-----

From: Max Seddon [mailto:[max.seddon@buzzfeed.com](mailto:max.seddon@buzzfeed.com)]

Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:10 AM

To: Lucas Magnuson, Laura

Subject: Joe Biden's son joining the board of a Ukrainian natural gas company

Dear Laura,

Hope this finds you well. Russian state media is loving this press release, supposedly from a Cypriot-held Ukrainian natural gas company, claiming that the Vice President's son has joined its board of directors:

<http://burisma.com/hunter-biden-joins-the-team-of-burisma-holdings/>

The news seems rather odd on its face and, if true, would present a fairly glaring conflict of interest given the VP's role on Ukraine policy - particularly since the company is controlled by Nikolai Zlochevsky, who was energy minister and deputy NSC chief under Yanukovych.

Is this true? What exactly is going on here?

Thanks and best

Max

--

Max Seddon

Foreign affairs reporter, BuzzFeed

+380 68 558 6856 (Kiev)

[twitter.com/maxseddon](https://twitter.com/maxseddon)

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation

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**From:** Hunter Biden <hbiden@rosemontseneca.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 10:30 AM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra; Barkoff, Kendra  
**Subject:** Re: Joe Biden's son joining the board of a Ukrainian natural gas company

Interesting. Burisma is completely independent of Ukrainian government with an independent board of directors. NZ served as Minister of Ecology and resigned in 2010. I joined the board as legal adviser and Burisma also engaged the law firm I am of counsel to Boies Schiller Flexner on matters pertaining to corporate governance, transparency and expansion. Alana Apter former head of Morgan Stanley Europe is chairman of the board.

RHB  
202.333.1880

On May 13, 2014, at 5:04 PM, "Barkoff, Kendra" <[Kendra A Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:Kendra.A.Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov)> wrote:

-----Original Message-----

From: Max Seddon [mailto:[max.seddon@buzzfeed.com](mailto:max.seddon@buzzfeed.com)]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:10 AM  
To: Lucas Magnuson, Laura  
Subject: Joe Biden's son joining the board of a Ukrainian natural gas company

Dear Laura,

Hope this finds you well. Russian state media is loving this press release, supposedly from a Cypriot-held Ukrainian natural gas company, claiming that the Vice President's son has joined its board of directors. The news seems rather odd on its face and, if true, would present a fairly glaring conflict of interest given the VP's role on Ukraine policy - particularly since the company is controlled by Nikolai Zlochevsky, who was energy minister and deputy NSC chief under Yanukovych.

Is this true? What exactly is going on here?

Thanks and best

Max

Max Seddon  
Foreign affairs reporter, BuzzFeed  
+380 68 558 6856 (Kiev)  
[twitter.com/maxseddon](https://twitter.com/maxseddon)

--

Max Seddon  
Foreign affairs reporter, BuzzFeed

+380 68 558 6856 (Kiev)  
[twitter.com/maxseddon](https://twitter.com/maxseddon)

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation

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**From:** Bruce, Mary K. <mary.k.bruce@abc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 16, 2014 7:11 PM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra; Barkoff, Kendra  
**Subject:** RE: Hunter Biden

Thank you.

---

**From:** Barkoff, Kendra [mailto:Kendra\_A\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 16, 2014 7:09 PM  
**To:** Bruce, Mary K.  
**Subject:** Re: Hunter Biden

Off the record:

I'm going to refer you to Hunter's lawyer Tom Gallagher: [gallaghert@pepperlaw.com](mailto:gallaghert@pepperlaw.com)

---

**From:** Bruce, Mary K. [mailto:Mary.K.Bruce@abc.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 16, 2014 07:08 PM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra  
**Subject:** Hunter Biden

Any comment? Thanks.

## Biden's Son Hunter Discharged From Navy Reserve After Failing Cocaine Test

>><http://online.wsj.com/articles/bidens-son-hunter-discharged-from-navy-reserve-after-failing-cocaine-test-1413499657<<>

Lawyer Pursued Military Service Relatively Late as a Public-Affairs Officer

Hunter Biden, right, attends a basketball game with his father, Vice President Joe Biden, center, and President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C., in 2010. ENLARGE

Hunter Biden, right, attends a basketball game with his father, Vice President Joe Biden, center, and President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C., in 2010. ASSOCIATED PRESS

By COLLEEN MCCAIN NELSON And JULIAN E. BARNES  
Oct. 16, 2014 6:47 p.m. ET

WASHINGTON—Vice President Joe Biden's son Hunter was discharged from the Navy Reserve this year after testing positive for cocaine, according to people familiar with the matter.

Hunter Biden, a lawyer by training who is now a managing partner at an investment company, had been commissioned as an ensign in the Navy Reserve, a part-time position. But after failing a drug test last year, his brief military career ended.

Mr. Biden, 44 years old, decided to pursue military service relatively late, beginning the direct-commission process to become a public-affairs officer in the Navy Reserve in 2012. Because of his age—43 when he was to be commissioned—he needed a waiver to join the Navy. He received a second Navy waiver because of a drug-related incident when he was a young man, according to people familiar with the matter. Military officials say such drug waivers aren't uncommon.

Mr. Biden was commissioned as an ensign on May 7, 2013, and assigned to Navy Public Affairs Support Element East in Norfolk, Va., a reserve unit, according to the Navy. In June 2013, after reporting to his unit in Norfolk, he was given a drug test, which turned up positive for cocaine, according to people familiar with the situation. Mr. Biden was discharged in February, the Navy said.

Mr. Biden said in a statement that it was “the honor of my life to serve in the U.S. Navy, and I deeply regret and am embarrassed that my actions led to my administrative discharge. I respect the Navy’s decision. With the love and support of my family, I’m moving forward.”

The vice president’s office declined to comment. The Navy said Mr. Biden met all of the criteria for a direct commission, but declined to provide any details of why he was discharged. “Like other junior officers, the details of Ens. Biden’s discharge are not releasable due to the Privacy Act,” Cmdr. Ryan Perry, a Navy spokesman, said.

Navy personnel who are discharged from the military because of a failed drug test don’t receive honorable discharges. Most are given an “other than honorable” or “general” discharge. It isn’t clear which discharge Mr. Biden received, and the Navy doesn’t release the discharge status of low-ranking officers or junior enlisted personnel.

Mr. Biden was recommended for a direct commission after interviewing with a board of Naval officers, according to the Navy. The direct-commission process was created to allow the Navy to tap civilians with needed skills. The program allows civilians who have not attended the Naval Academy, a reserve-officer training course or officer-candidate school to join the military by attending only an abbreviated training program.

The Navy typically accepts about six people into the public-affairs reserves each year. Navy reservists usually serve one weekend a month and two weeks a year, but they can be called up to serve as much as a year on active duty.

The vice president and his wife, Jill Biden, speak regularly about the pride they take in being a military family, often referring to son Beau Biden’s time in the Delaware Army National Guard and his yearlong deployment to Iraq. After Hunter Biden joined the Navy, his mother said he was following in the footsteps of two of his grandfathers, who also served in the Navy.

“This year, I’m looking forward to standing with our son, Hunter, when he is commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy,” she said in 2012.

In January 2013, Joe Biden joked about Mr. Biden’s decision to pursue military service at age 42. “We have a lot of bad judgment in my family,” the vice president said at the American Legion’s Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball. “My son, who is over 40, just joined the United States Navy. He’s about to be sworn in as an officer, Hunter Biden.”

Hunter Biden, who is married with three children, is the younger of the vice president’s two sons. Beau Biden serves as the Delaware attorney general and has announced plans to run for governor in 2016. Joe and Jill Biden also have a daughter, Ashley, who joined the Delaware Center for Justice in 2012 as associate executive director.

Hunter Biden has embarked on several different professional ventures, including his recent appointment with a Ukrainian firm, that have drawn scrutiny. In May, he joined the board of the Ukrainian gas producer, Burisma Holdings

Ltd., which is controlled by a former security and energy official for Ukraine's ousted former president. The announcement that Mr. Biden would be responsible for Burisma's legal unit raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest, because his father, the vice president, was engaged in diplomatic efforts involving Ukraine.

At the time, the vice president's office called Hunter Biden "a private citizen" and said Joe Biden didn't endorse any particular company. Hunter Biden didn't return calls seeking comment on the matter.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Biden worked as a lobbyist. He quit the business and resigned his partnership at a Washington firm after his father was named to join the presidential ticket in 2008.

Now, Mr. Biden is a managing partner at Rosemont Seneca Partners, an investment company. He also serves as chairman of World Food Program USA, which calls itself "a humanitarian agency that fights hunger," and he is an adjunct assistant professor at Georgetown University.

Write to Colleen McCain Nelson at [colleen.nelson@wsj.com](mailto:colleen.nelson@wsj.com)

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation



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**From:** Barkoff, Kendra <kendra\_a\_barkoff@ovp.eop.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:57 AM  
**To:** hbiden@rosemontseneca.com  
**Subject:** Re: hey

Thanks for letting me know. What about tomorrow?

---

**From:** Hunter Biden [mailto:hbiden@rosemontseneca.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:55 AM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra  
**Subject:** Re: hey

K-  
I am really sorry but I have to cancel call today.

RHB  
202.333.1880

On May 13, 2014, at 2:23 PM, "Barkoff, Kendra" <[Kendra\\_A\\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:Kendra_A_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov)> wrote:

Been giving out this statement:

"Hunter Biden is a private citizen and a lawyer. The Vice President does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company. For any additional questions, I refer you to Hunter's office."

---

**From:** Hunter Biden [<mailto:hbiden@rosemontseneca.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 02:20 PM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra  
**Subject:** Re: hey

If anything beyond referring questions to my office is required from you or counsel you can contact Heather King at Boise Schiller.

RHB  
202.333.1880

On May 13, 2014, at 6:00 PM, "Barkoff, Kendra" <[Kendra\\_A\\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:Kendra_A_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov)> wrote:

Thanks

---

**From:** Eric Schwerin [<mailto:eschwerin@rosemontseneca.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 10:58 AM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra  
**Cc:** Hunter Biden <[hbiden@rosemontseneca.com](mailto:hbiden@rosemontseneca.com)>

**Subject:** Re: hey

Kendra, I am around the next few days if you need me.

Eric D. Schwerin  
Rosemont Seneca Partners, LLC  
1010 Wisconsin Ave., NW  
Suite 705  
Washington, DC 20007  
(202) 333-1880  
[eschwerin@rosemontseneca.com](mailto:eschwerin@rosemontseneca.com)

 Consider the environment before printing this email.

On May 13, 2014, at 10:39 AM, Barkoff, Kendra <[Kendra\\_A\\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:Kendra_A_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov)> wrote:

Thanks

---

**From:** Hunter Biden [<mailto:hbiden@rosemontseneca.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 10:39 AM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra  
**Cc:** Eric Schwerin  
**Subject:** Re: hey

Eric- he's cc'd here

RHB  
202.333.1880

On May 13, 2014, at 5:05 PM, "Barkoff, Kendra" <[Kendra\\_A\\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:Kendra_A_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov)> wrote:

Just sent you the email  
Let me know who in your office.  
Thanks!

---

**From:** Hunter Biden [<mailto:hbiden@rosemontseneca.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:59 AM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra  
**Subject:** Re: hey

Ok-  
What exactly are they asking? For the time being I'd just refer them to my office. FYI I joined the board of Burisma Holdings Ltd. ([Burisma.com](http://Burisma.com)) an independent/ private natural gas producer in Ukraine along with the former president of Poland. I think the press release is on their web site.

RHB  
202.333.1880

On May 13, 2014, at 4:46 PM, "Barkoff, Kendra"  
<[Kendra\\_A\\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:Kendra_A_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov)> wrote:

Thanks for talking to me. let me know who I should  
refer folks to.  
Kendra

**Kendra Barkoff**  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Vice President  
(202) 456-4390 (o) | (202) 503-5285 (c)  
[kbarkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:kbarkoff@ovp.eop.gov)

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation

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**From:** Hunter Biden <hbiden@rosemontseneca.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 3:21 PM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra; Barkoff, Kendra  
**Subject:** Re: hey

Her email is:  
[hking@BSFLLP.com](mailto:hking@BSFLLP.com)

RHB  
202.333.1880

On May 13, 2014, at 6:00 PM, "Barkoff, Kendra" <[Kendra\\_A\\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:Kendra_A_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov)> wrote:

Thanks

---

**From:** Eric Schwerin [<mailto:eschwerin@rosemontseneca.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 10:58 AM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra  
**Cc:** Hunter Biden <[hbiden@rosemontseneca.com](mailto:hbiden@rosemontseneca.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: hey

Kendra, I am around the next few days if you need me.

Eric D. Schwerin  
Rosemont Seneca Partners, LLC  
1010 Wisconsin Ave., NW  
Suite 705  
Washington, DC 20007  
(202) 333-1880  
[eschwerin@rosemontseneca.com](mailto:eschwerin@rosemontseneca.com)

 Consider the environment before printing this email.

On May 13, 2014, at 10:39 AM, Barkoff, Kendra <[Kendra\\_A\\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:Kendra_A_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov)> wrote:

Thanks

---

**From:** Hunter Biden [<mailto:hbiden@rosemontseneca.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 10:39 AM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra  
**Cc:** Eric Schwerin  
**Subject:** Re: hey

Eric- he's cc'd here

RHB  
202.333.1880

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Let me know who in your office.  
Thanks!

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**From:** Hunter Biden [<mailto:hbiden@rosemontseneca.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:59 AM

**To:** Barkoff, Kendra

**Subject:** Re: hey

Ok-

What exactly are they asking? For the time being I'd just refer them to my office. FYI I joined the board of Burisma Holdings Ltd. ([Burisma.com](http://Burisma.com)) an independent/ private natural gas producer in Ukraine along with the former president of Poland. I think the press release is on their web site.

RHB  
202.333.1880

On May 13, 2014, at 4:46 PM, "Barkoff, Kendra" <[Kendra\\_A\\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:Kendra_A_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov)> wrote:

Thanks for talking to me. let me know who I should refer folks to.  
Kendra

**Kendra Barkoff**  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Vice President  
(202) 456-4390 (o) | (202) 503-5285 (c)  
[kbarkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:kbarkoff@ovp.eop.gov)

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**From:** Hertz, Jessica R. <jessica\_r\_hertz@ovp.eop.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 12:07 PM  
**To:** Lambros, Demetra; Lambros, Demetra  
**Subject:** FW: MoscowTimes: Son of U.S. Vice President Biden Joins Ukraine Gas Company

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**From:** Allen, Jessica  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 12:05 PM  
**To:** DL-WHO-Press; Aidinoff, Marc; Allen, Jessica; Aniskoff, Paulette; Barkoff, Kendra; Beirne Fallon, Katie; Carney, Jay; Carroll, Brad; Carson, Crystal; Clavel, Lise; Davidson, Josta; Edelman, R. David; Evans, Bess; Feldman, Stefanie G.; Foster, Heather; Friedman, Jennifer; Hankins, Hannah R.; Hart, Elizabeth; Hertz, Jessica R.; Holst, Lindsay; Holzer, Benjamin; Hunn, Allison; Inouye, Shin; Jencks, Fae; Jenkins, Brad; Joseph, Jeremy; Kahan, Alex; Lachman, Sherry; Lambros, Demetra; Lawrence, Natasha; Lopez, Rafael; MacFarquhar, Rory; Murray, Shailagh; Palmieri, Jennifer; Parker, Steve; Patterson, Nicholas; Platkin, Alex; Price, Ryan; Rogers, Melissa; Russo, Bill; Sahgal, Rishi R.; Schultz, Greg; Schwartz, Noah; Shoup, Lilly; Ricchetti, Steven; Trotter, Kingsley; Velz, Peter; Whisenant, Addie; Arguelles, Adam; Asen, Jonathan; Backemeyer, Christopher; Bartoloni, Kristen; Brookie, Graham; Brown, Sam; Canegallo, Kristie A.; Carney, Jay; Click, John; Cloud, Donald; Coates, Kelsey; Cohen, Ilona; Cooper, Eric; Costa, Kristina; Dean, Laura; Debevoise, Lyn; Dickinson, Tammy; DMCOS; Earnest, Joshua R.; Fenn, Sarah; Gianotti, Claire; Govashiri, Ferial; Hayden, Caitlin; Hedger, Stephen; Heinzelman, Kate; Jackson, Bartlett; Jimenez, Luis A.; Kaden, David M.; Keenan, Cody; Kim, Andrew; Kirchhoff, Christopher; Lee, Jesse C.; Lee, Jonathan; Leweling, Tara; Lubin, Nathaniel; Lucas Magnuson, Laura; Lundeberg, Greta; McFarlin, Mac; McKeon, Brian P.; Meehan, Bernadette; Moscoco, Patricia; Moussavian, Roxana; O'Connor, Kyle; Ortiz, Michael; Pfeiffer, Dan; Prescott, Jeffrey; Quillian, Natalie; Rangarajan, Taara; Rangel, Antoinette N.; Rhodes, Benjamin J.; Robertson, Michael; Rosenberger, Laura; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Schulman, Loren DeJonge; Sherwood-Randall, Liz; Singh, Pavneet; Szuplat, Terry; Wagstaff, Jesica; Wang, Jenny; West, Thomas; Withers, Anne; Wozniak, Natalie S.  
**Subject:** MoscowTimes: Son of U.S. Vice President Biden Joins Ukraine Gas Company

[DRUDGE REPORT @DRUDGE REPORT 1m](#)

Son of Vice President Biden Joins Ukraine Gas Company... <http://drudge.tw/1lih37X>

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/son-of-us-vice-president-biden-joins-ukraine-gas-company/500062.html>

**Son of U.S. Vice President Biden Joins Ukraine Gas Company**

**The Moscow Times**

*May. 13 2014 18:49 Last edited 18:49*

The youngest son of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, Hunter Biden, has been appointed head of legal affairs at Ukraine's largest private gas producer — a move he said would benefit Ukrainians and the country's economy.

In a statement published on its website, Burisma Holdings announced Hunter Biden would join its board of directors and head the company's legal unit.

"As a new member of the board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine," Hunter Biden said in the statement.

Burisma owns several Ukrainian oil and gas companies, including Esko Pivnich and Pari, Lenta.ru reported Tuesday. The company also has assets in Ukraine's Dnepr-Donetsk, the Carpathian and the Azov-Kuvan basins.

Burisma produced 11,600 barrels of oil equivalent, or boe, in 2013 and was planning to increase its production in Ukraine by 35-40 percent in 2014, U.S. financier and member of the board of directors Devon Archer told newspaper Capital in late April.

Hunter's father, as U.S. Vice President, has repeatedly rebuked Russia for its reported involvement in Ukraine and has pledged to support efforts to reduce its dependency on Russian energy.

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation

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**From:** Lambros, Demetra <demetra\_d\_lambros@ovp.eop.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:17 AM  
**To:** Prescott, Jeffrey; Prescott, Jeffrey  
**Cc:** Barkoff, Kendra; Barkoff, Kendra  
**Subject:** FW: Joe Biden's son joining the board of a Ukrainian natural gas company

Hey Jeff:

Do you have a minute to talk about this?

-----Original Message-----

From: Barkoff, Kendra  
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:15 AM  
To: Murray, Shailagh; Lambros, Demetra  
Subject: Fw: Joe Biden's son joining the board of a Ukrainian natural gas company

----- Original Message -----

From: Max Seddon [mailto:max.seddon@buzzfeed.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 09:11 AM  
To: Lucas Magnuson, Laura  
Cc: Barkoff, Kendra  
Subject: Re: Joe Biden's son joining the board of a Ukrainian natural gas company

Thanks!

On Tue, May 13, 2014 at 4:11 PM, Lucas Magnuson, Laura <Laura\_D\_Lucas@nsc.eop.gov> wrote:

> Hi, Max. Adding the VP's office to respond to your query. Best, Laura

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Max Seddon [mailto:max.seddon@buzzfeed.com]  
> Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:10 AM  
> To: Lucas Magnuson, Laura  
> Subject: Joe Biden's son joining the board of a Ukrainian natural gas  
> company

>

> Dear Laura,

>

> Hope this finds you well. Russian state media is loving this press  
> release, supposedly from a Cypriot-held Ukrainian natural gas company,  
> claiming that the Vice President's son has joined its board of  
> directors:

>

> <http://burisma.com/hunter-biden-joins-the-team-of-burisma-holdings/>

>

> The news seems rather odd on its face and, if true, would present a fairly glaring conflict of interest given the VP's role on Ukraine policy - particularly since the company is controlled by Nikolai Zlochevsky, who was energy minister and deputy NSC chief under Yanukovich.

>

> Is this true? What exactly is going on here?

>

> Thanks and best

>

> Max



>  
>  
> --  
> Max Seddon  
> Foreign affairs reporter, BuzzFeed  
> +380 68 558 6856 (Kiev)  
> twitter.com/maxseddon

--  
Max Seddon  
Foreign affairs reporter, BuzzFeed  
+380 68 558 6856 (Kiev)  
twitter.com/maxseddon

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation

---

**From:** Prescott, Jeffrey <jeffrey\_m\_prescott@ovp.eop.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2014 10:08 AM  
**To:** Debevoise, Lyn; Carpenter, Michael; Carpenter, Michael; Debevoise, Lyn  
**Subject:** RE: Ukraine headline

Thanks for the flag

---

**From:** Debevoise, Lyn  
**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2014 10:01 AM  
**To:** Prescott, Jeffrey; Carpenter, Michael  
**Subject:** Ukraine headline

Haven't read the article, but flagging this:

Hunter Biden, Vice President's son, appointed to board of Zlochevskyi's Burisma Holdings that develops gas in Ukraine  
[http://economics.lb.ua/business/2014/05/12/266147\\_sin\\_vitseprezidenta\\_ssha\\_stal.html](http://economics.lb.ua/business/2014/05/12/266147_sin_vitseprezidenta_ssha_stal.html)

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation

---

**From:** Barkoff, Kendra <kendra\_a\_barkoff@ovp.eop.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 2:33 PM  
**To:** Lucas Magnuson, Laura; Trotter, Kingsley; Trotter, Katherine K.; Lucas, Laura  
**Cc:** Carpenter, Michael; Carpenter, Michael  
**Subject:** Re: FYSA: Hunter Biden-Ukraine Story Trending Among Russian Elites

Thanks

Yes. Answering them now

---

**From:** Lucas Magnuson, Laura  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 01:17 PM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra; Trotter, Kingsley  
**Cc:** Carpenter, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: FYSA: Hunter Biden-Ukraine Story Trending Among Russian Elites

Want me to have State forward all queries to you?

And are you saying anything? Thanks!

---

**From:** Singer, Matthew A [mailto:SingerMA@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 1:15 PM  
**To:** Lucas Magnuson, Laura  
**Cc:** Ferencevych, Yaryna N; Schtele, Luke A; Sessums, Michael D; Smith, Brian T; Bouldin, Megan T; EUR-PD-Dirs-DL  
**Subject:** FW: FYSA: Hunter Biden-Ukraine Story Trending Among Russian Elites

Hello, Laura,

Can we discuss? Post has gotten an inquiry about this (fortunately, just to confirm whether it's true, nothing too loaded), and they need to know if they should forward inquiries to NSC.

Thank you,

-MS

**Matthew Singer • Public Diplomacy Desk Officer for Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus • Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs  
• U.S. Dept. of State**

2201 C St NW, Room 4427, Washington, DC 20520 | Direct 202-647-7861 | [SingerMA@state.gov](mailto:SingerMA@state.gov)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Smith, Brian T  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 1:13 PM

**To:** EUR-UMB-DL; EUR-RUS-POL-DL

**Cc:** Ukraine Neg Narratives; Ukraine-Russia Coordination; Kyiv, PAS FSOs

**Subject:** RE: FYSA: Hunter Biden-Ukraine Story Trending Among Russian Elites

Now being covered in English by the Moscow Times.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/son-of-us-vice-president-biden-joins-ukraine-gas-company/500062.html>

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Smith, Brian T

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 11:10 AM

**To:** EUR-UMB-DL; EUR-RUS-POL-DL

**Cc:** Ukraine Neg Narratives; Ukraine-Russia Coordination

**Subject:** FYSA: Hunter Biden-Ukraine Story Trending Among Russian Elites

Colleagues – FYSA, The below Russian news article, that VP Biden’s son, Hunter, has been named a board member of the energy company Burisma, which has rights to hydrocarbon reserves in Ukraine, is being retweeted by Russian elites, including Aleksey Pushkov and Vladislav Surkov. It has 100 retweets as of 1100 EST.

<http://lenta.ru/news/2014/05/13/biden/>

Brian T. Smith

EUR/UMB (TDY)

202.647.2979 | HST 4427A

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation

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**From:** Barkoff, Kendra <kendra\_a\_barkoff@ovp.eop.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 2:37 PM  
**To:** ann.w.compton@abc.com; Trotter, Kingsley; Spector, Stephen; Spector, Stephen; Trotter, Katherine K.  
**Cc:** mary.k.bruce@abc.com; jonathan.d.karl@abc.com; rick.klein@abc.com  
**Subject:** Re: I know you are travelling. OFF the record doesnt help. I would however be willing to use this with or without quoting YOU.

Off the record:

The lawyers weren't consulted because Hunter is a private citizen and the VP has no association with this company.

----- Original Message -----

From: Compton, Ann W. [mailto:Ann.W.Compton@abc.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 01:35 PM  
To: Barkoff, Kendra; Trotter, Kingsley; Spector, Stephen  
Cc: Bruce, Mary K. <Mary.K.Bruce@abc.com>; Karl, Jonathan D. <Jonathan.D.Karl@abc.com>; Klein, Rick <Rick.Klein@abc.com>  
Subject: I know you are travelling. OFF the record doesnt help. I would however be willing to use this with or without quoting YOU.

And Hunter's office cannot answer: was the WH counsel's office consulted, or informed as a courtesy?

-----Original Message-----

From: Barkoff, Kendra [mailto:Kendra\_A\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 2:27 PM  
To: Compton, Ann W.; Trotter, Kingsley; Spector, Stephen  
Cc: Bruce, Mary K.; Karl, Jonathan D.; Klein, Rick  
Subject: RE: Kendra - in the WH briefing Jay Carney is referring questions on Hunter Biden to you.

OFF THE RECORD (sorry about the delay, I am flying with the VP and having email issues)

Here is a statement for your use from me:

"Hunter Biden is a private citizen and a lawyer. The Vice President does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company. For any additional questions, I refer you to Hunter's office."

-----Original Message-----

From: Compton, Ann W. [mailto:Ann.W.Compton@abc.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 1:16 PM  
To: Barkoff, Kendra; Trotter, Kingsley; Spector, Stephen  
Cc: Bruce, Mary K.; Karl, Jonathan D.; Klein, Rick  
Subject: Kendra - in the WH briefing Jay Carney is referring questions on Hunter Biden to you.

Can you tell us whether the WH counsel's office was consulted? Informed? Even as a courtesy?  
And was Vice President Biden aware of the hiring when he visited Ukraine April 21-22?

Would appreciate a timely response... Thanks, as always.

-----Original Message-----

From: Compton, Ann W.  
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 12:50 PM  
To: 'Kendra\_A\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov'; 'Katherine\_K\_Trotter@ovp.eop.gov'  
Subject: ?? Any reply ?? Did the VP's legal staff have to vett this or sign off in any way? Is it any kind of conflict of interest ?

-----Original Message-----

From: Compton, Ann W.

Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 11:40 AM

To: 'Kendra\_A\_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov'; 'Katherine\_K\_Trotter@ovp.eop.gov'

Subject: Hi. Did the VP's legal staff have to vett this or sign off in any way? Is it any kind of conflict of interest ?

Son of U.S. Vice President Biden Joins Ukraine Gas Company

- The Moscow Times
- May. 13 2014 18:49
- Last edited 18:49

The youngest son of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, Hunter Biden, has been appointed head of legal affairs at Ukraine's largest private gas producer — a move he said would benefit Ukrainians and the country's economy.

In a statement published on its website, Burisma Holdings announced Hunter Biden would join its board of directors and head the company's legal unit.

"As a new member of the board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine," Hunter Biden said in the statement.

Burisma owns several Ukrainian oil and gas companies, including Esko Pivnich and Pari, Lenta.ru reported Tuesday. The company also has assets in Ukraine's Dnepr-Donetsk, the Carpathian and the Azov-Kuvan basins.

Burisma produced 11,600 barrels of oil equivalent, or boe, in 2013 and was planning to increase its production in Ukraine by 35-40 percent in 2014, U.S. financier and member of the board of directors Devon Archer told newspaper Capital in late April.

Hunter's father, as U.S. Vice President, has repeatedly rebuked Russia for its reported involvement in Ukraine and has pledged to support efforts to reduce its dependency on Russian energy.

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**From:** Kim, Yuri J (Ankara) <kimyj@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 14, 2014 12:19 PM  
**To:** Nuland, Victoria J <nulandvj@state.gov>; Jones, Paul W <jonespw2@state.gov>; Rubin, Eric S <rubines@state.gov>; Sloat, Amanda L <sloatal@state.gov>; Haggard, Henry R <haggardhr@state.gov>; EUR-SE-TU-DL <eur-se-tu-dl@state.gov>; Sherwood-Randall, Liz <elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov>; Finer, Jonathan J <finerjj@state.gov>; Lakhdhir, Kamala S <lakhdhirks@state.gov>; Clements, Kelly <clementsk@state.gov>; Underriner, John M <underrinerjm@state.gov>; Iris, Nancy R <irisnr@state.gov>; VonHippel, Karin L <vonhippelkl@state.gov>; Manso, Joseph X <mansojx@state.gov>; Pisani, Kristen L <pisanikl@state.gov>; Kahl, L Alex <kahl@state.gov>; Scanlon, Amy B (Athens) <scanlonab@state.gov>; Uyehara, Michael M <uyeharamm@state.gov>; Kenna, Lisa D (Amman) <kennald@state.gov>; Goldberger, Thomas H (Baghdad) <goldbergerth@state.gov>; P EUR Duty <p-eurduty@state.gov>; Schofer, Andrew J <schoferaj@state.gov>; philip\_h\_gordon@nss.eop.gov; Weigold Schultz, Eva A <weigoldea@state.gov>; Latham, Michael E <lathamme@state.gov>; Mujica, Maryam AM <mujicamam@state.gov>; Pappas, Demitra M <pappasdm@state.gov>; Godfrey, John T <godfreyjt@state.gov>; Walker, Peggy J (Athens) <walkerpj@state.gov>; McDowell, H. Martin <mcdowellhm@state.gov>; D EUR Duty Officer2 <ddutyofficer2@state.gov>; Narain, Paul F (Athens) <narainpf@state.gov>; Binnendijk, Anika L <bennendijkal@state.gov> ( Athens ); 'Chris Skaluba <christopher.p.skaluba.civ@mail.mil>; shoshanna.matney@osd.mil;' <rachel.a.ellehuus.civ@mail.mil>; Belmonte, Monica L <belmonteml@state.gov> ( Amman ); james.j.townsend2.civ@mail.mil; 'Buland, Alton V CIV OSD OUSD POLICY (US <alton.v.buland.civ@mail.mil> ( Baghdad ); Bobrow, Christina <christina\_e\_bobrow@nsc.eop.gov>; Leweling, Tara <tara\_a\_leweling@nsc.eop.gov>; Carpenter, Michael <mcarpenter@ovp.eop.gov>; Smith, Sammie <samantha\_f\_smith@nsc.eop.gov>; Alpha, Avery <avery\_m\_alpha@nsc.eop.gov>; Smith, Samantha </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=smith, samantha f.96a>; >; Alpha, Avery </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=alpha, avery m.f21>; >; Leweling, Tara </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=leweling, tara a.aac>; >; Carpenter, Michael </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=carpenter, michael r.7b8>; >; Bobrow, Christina </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=bobrow, christina e.b8c>; >; Sherwood-Randall, Liz </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=elizabethd.sherwoodrandall41217251> ( Athens ); >  
**Cc:** Ricciardone, Francis J <ricciardonefj@state.gov>; Baily, Jess L <bailyjl@state.gov>; Lackey, Hal V <lackeyhv@state.gov>; marc.sasseville@us.af.mil; Ward, Mark S (D/MET) <wardms@state.gov>; AnkaraAMB <ankaraamb@state.gov>; Wentworth, Mark A <wentworthm@state.gov>; Van De Vate, Katherine <vandevatek@state.gov>; Mennuti, Deborah (Istanbul) <mennutid@state.gov> ( D/MET ); Densmore, William E <densmorewe@state.gov>; Espinoza, John L <espinozajohnl@state.gov>; Wroblewski, K Andrew <wroblewskika@state.gov>; Mahoney, Haynes R (Istanbul) <mahoneyhr@state.gov>; ISTANBUL-POLECON AMERICANS-DL <istanbul-poleconamericans-dl@state.gov>; Peterson, Chad S <petersoncs@state.gov>; Lally, Michael (Dept of Commerce) <michael.lally@trade.gov> ( Istanbul ); Tobey, Laurence E <tobeyle@state.gov>; Ricciardone, Marie D. <ricciardonemd@state.gov>; Carraway, Cassandra B <carrawaycb@state.gov>; Fingarson, Timothy J <fingarsonjt@state.gov>; Blue, Michael C <bluemc@state.gov>; Grubisha, Thomas J <grubishatj@state.gov>; Olson, Scott A <olsonsa@state.gov>; Hansen, Ralph S <hansenrs@state.gov> ( Istanbul ); Turner, James J <turnerjj@state.gov>; Hines, R. Arturo <hinesra3@state.gov>; Wilson, Brandon L <wilsonbl@state.gov>; Fischer, Patrick J <fischerpj@state.gov>; Hayden, Liam D <haydenld@state.gov> ( Dept of Commerce ); Speaks, John T <speaksjt@state.gov>; Hunter, Charles F (Istanbul) <huntercf@state.gov>; Saxton-Ruiz, James-Michael <saxton-ruizjm@state.gov>; Olson, Kimberly G <olsonkg@state.gov>; Brown, Kristina M <brownkm4@state.gov>; Nassmacher, Wendy L <nassmacherwl@state.gov>; Friedman, Justin

**Cc:** <friedmanj@state.gov>; Stafford, Edward G <staffordeg@state.gov>; Armush, Maha A <armushma@state.gov>; O'Shaughnessy, Melissa S <o'shaughnessyms@state.gov>; Cardwell, Adam K <cardwellak@state.gov>; Ngutter, Dorothy M <ngutterdm@state.gov>; Kim, Yuri J (Ankara) <kimyj@state.gov>; O'Shaughnessy, Melissa <oshaughnessyms@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Turkey Daily Notes: May 14, 2014

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Nov 21 14:23:14 EST 2022

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

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P5

Notes:

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Case ID: LA 2022-0121-F

Additional Information:

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Obtained by America First Legal Foundation



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**From:** Hunter Biden <hbiden@rosemontseneca.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:59 AM  
**To:** Barkoff, Kendra; Barkoff, Kendra  
**Subject:** Re: hey

Ok-

What exactly are they asking? For the time being I'd just refer them to my office. FYI I joined the board of Burisma Holdings Ltd. ([Burisma.com](http://Burisma.com)) an independent/ private natural gas producer in Ukraine along with the former president of Poland. I think the press release is on their web site.

RHB  
202.333.1880

On May 13, 2014, at 4:46 PM, "Barkoff, Kendra" <[Kendra A Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:Kendra_A_Barkoff@ovp.eop.gov)> wrote:

Thanks for talking to me. let me know who I should refer folks to.  
Kendra

**Kendra Barkoff**  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Vice President  
(202) 456-4390 (o) | (202) 503-5285 (c)  
[kbarkoff@ovp.eop.gov](mailto:kbarkoff@ovp.eop.gov)

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