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Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver Calls Trump Dismissal of Russian Election Interference Irresponsible & Dangerous

SANTA FE – New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver on Monday released the following statement after a joint news conference in Helsinki at which President Trump and Vladimir Putin addressed evidence that Russia meddled in and influenced the outcome of the 2016 presidential election:

“Donald Trump believes Vladimir Putin; I believe the facts. The CIA, the FBI and the entire U.S. Intelligence community knows that Russian hackers, working at the direction of the Russian military, illegally gathered and disseminated information that played a pivotal role in the outcome of the 2016 presidential election. For President Trump to deny the truth is irresponsible and dangerous.

"As someone who not only oversees New Mexico's elections but has actually run elections for ten years, I understand how real the Russian threat is and I'm appalled our President doesn't.

“Outside interference, like the Russian hacking in 2016, is the greatest threat to our election security. By denying the fact that our systems can be and were compromised, Donald Trump is making our Democratic system less safe. Instead of trying to make things right with Vladimir Putin, Trump should be focused on keeping American elections safe.”

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