

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500


Dear Mr. President:

By amassing land, air, and sea capabilities against Ukraine, Vladimir Putin is threatening not just the sovereignty of Ukraine but democracy and freedom across the globe. Ukraine's forces have valiantly defended their territory against a force greater in size and complexity than their own, but as you know, Ukraine's capacity to defend its own airspace is limited. Putin continues to use his forces to commit indiscriminate bombing of Ukrainian civilians, and without additional military support including aircraft, Russian attacks will lead to additional war crimes and humanitarian tragedies.


We urge you to quickly work with our NATO allies who have MiG and Sukhoi fighters to enable them to provide those available planes to the Ukrainian military. Providing Ukraine with additional fighter capabilities enables them to counter Russian attacks and provide maximum protection of Ukrainian civilians. We ask that you expedite foreign military sales (FMS) of American jets to support our NATO allies who could send their older fighter jets to assist Ukraine. This additional assistance would incentivize the transfer and provide additional deterrence in the region.

We urge you to work with our NATO allies to help bridge Ukraine's capabilities gap, while mitigating whatever risks might be posed by this arrangement. Additional fighters bolster our ability to collectively defend NATO's eastern flank against Putin's unlawful aggression, while simultaneously strengthening our unity as an allied force. Growing trust and interoperability within the alliance will further enhance our capacity to deter Putin's hostilities as a united force. We thank you for your earnest consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Lloyd Austin, Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense
The Honorable Antony J. Blinken, Secretary, U.S. Department of State