

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2021

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

Dear President Biden,

As co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Ukraine Caucus, we would like to express our concern regarding our shared goal of enhancing transatlantic and Ukrainian national security as you prepare for the upcoming G7, NATO and U.S.-EU Summit, and your meeting with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin. A successful meeting with Putin can only be accomplished proceeding from a position of strength. To firmly establish such a position, we respectfully urge you to fully sanction all entities engaged in the construction of Nord Stream 2, support Ukraine's NATO Membership Action Plan, and commit to increasing United States security assistance for Ukraine.

As you well know, Ukraine is enduring its seventh year of illegal Russian aggression. Tragically, Russian incursions and occupation have caused the death of over 14,000 innocents and the displacement of millions more. Moscow's war on Ukraine is in direct violation of international norms and is a central part of its efforts to undermine NATO and the European Union. Helping Ukraine stop Moscow's aggression in the Donbass is essential to our interests in the region and the world. Recently, Russia amassed over 100,000 troops at Ukraine's border and in its territories and has yet to fully remove them. Instead of deescalating, Russia's Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu recently announced new and threatening actions that the Kremlin will set up new military units and formations in Russia's western region that border Ukraine and Belarus.

We appreciate your recent invitation to President Zelenskiy to the White House this summer as well as your personal engagement on Ukraine in recent years. We also appreciate Secretary Antony Blinken's recent visit to Ukraine where he expressed robust U.S. support for Ukraine. Yet, we are concerned that recent steps by the Administration do not adequately project strength of the U.S. position heading into the meeting with Putin. These steps include the Administration's request to decrease security assistance for Ukraine from the enacted levels of \$275 million in fiscal year 2021 to \$250 million in fiscal year 2022. This follows the troublesome decision to use the "national interest waiver" on Nord Stream AG and Putin crony Matthias Warnig. This decision was welcomed in Moscow and ignored Congressional intent and the law under PEESCA. We continue to believe that it is against the U.S. national interest to allow the completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which will compromise European and transatlantic energy security. Also problematic is the slew of high-profile cyber-attacks emanating from Russia.

To set the stage properly for your meeting with Putin, we urge you to reverse the waiver decision on Nord Stream 2. We encourage the Administration to help Ukraine develop its own energy security strategy through increased scientific and technical exchanges to enhance Ukrainian biofuel, natural gas, hydrogen, and renewable energy generation efforts. In addition to fully sanctioning Nord Stream 2, we also urge you to make clear that your Administration is firmly committed to the requirement that Vladimir Putin must end Russia's war in the Donbass, withdraw from the Crimean peninsula, and end his forces' and proxies' gross human rights abuses on religious minorities, journalists, and other human rights defenders in the occupied territories. We were proud to spearhead efforts through the Appropriations process to increase defense security assistance for Ukraine to \$275 million, and urge the Administration to commit to providing more robust military support for Ukraine to better defend itself and Europe's eastern flank. In the face of Russian entities' cyber-attacks on western entities working either with explicit or implicit Kremlin consent, we urge the Administration to signal its intention to respond robustly and commensurately to these attacks.

Approaching the NATO Summit on June 14, we ask you to reinvigorate the 2008 Bucharest NATO Summit Pledge that, "Membership Action Plans (MAP) is the next step for Ukraine and Georgia on their direct way to membership. Today we make clear that we support these countries' application for MAP." Ukraine and Georgia should be entitled to realize their Euro-Atlantic aspirations to achieve NATO membership through support of those nations' MAP.

Thank you for your attention to these matters, and we look forward to working with the Administration through our senior roles on Appropriations and Authorization Committees in the U.S. Congress to strengthen U.S. and transatlantic security by strengthening Ukraine's progress as a prosperous and democratic nation free from Russian aggression.

Sincerely,



MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress



ANDY HARRIS, M.D.
Member of Congress

CC:

Secretary of State Antony Blinken
Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen