STEVE COHEN 9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE 2104 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515

> TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265 FAX: (202) 225-5663

167 NORTH MAIN STREET SUITE 369 MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131 FAX: (901) 544-4329

WWW.COHEN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-4209

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WATER, OCEANS, AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

March 7, 2022

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

Dear President Biden,

I write to ask that you immediately ban the U.S. purchase of Russian oil and gas and encourage European allies to do the same. I also urge you to continue sanctioning Russian oligarchs including Roman Abramovich. I have enclosed an additional list of names suggested by Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation.

As you know, oil and gas revenue compose about half of Russia's budget and is crucial to financing Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine.¹ American dollars should not be used to support this illegal war.

While cutting off Russian oil and gas will likely cause gas prices to increase, Americans should be reminded that this is the price of democracy, freedom and doing what's right. Whenever Americans are filling up their tanks, they should think that these higher prices are a way to "Stick it to Putin at the Pump." The Administration can explain higher prices with a PR campaign about showing Putin that America will always fight for democracy, no matter how expensive. Americans have shown great compassion for Ukraine and I believe will, with your leadership, see this as a way to do their part to stop Putin.

¹ https://www.wsj.com/articles/putin-sanction-russia-oil-exports-imports-invasion-ukraine-war-lng-natural-gas-energy-pricesclimate-change-midterm-2022-election-11646594027

I would also like to commend you for swiftly sanctioning Russian oligarchs when the invasion began. I ask that you add Roman Abramovich as well as oligarchs suggested by Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation. I have enclosed a list including these names.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you will consider banning Russian oil and gas so that every American can do their part and "Stick it to Putin at the Pump."

Sincerely,

Stere Cohen

Steve Cohen Member of Congress