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

July 6, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

I write today to thank you for negotiating the release of former Marine Trevor Reed who had been detained in Russia since 2019 and urge you to do everything in your power to secure the release of Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) star and two-time Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner, former Marine Paul Whelan, and Russian political oppositionist Vladimir Kara-Murza.

I voted for and the House of Representatives passed a resolution on June 24, 2022, calling for the immediate release of Brittney Griner, a citizen of the United States, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in February 2022. Ms. Griner also sent you an impassioned letter expressing how terrified she is, alone in a hostile country away from her friends and family. It's hard to imagine the emotional stress that she has had to endure, in addition to the immeasurable impact on her family, teammates and the WNBA community. Mr. Whelan was wrongfully arrested on espionage charges in December 2018 after bravely serving our country as a Marine. These two American citizens are being used as Putin's political pawns.

While Mr. Kara-Murza is a Russian citizen, he is a friend to many here in the United States, including myself, and his wife and three children live in America. He bravely spoke out about Putin's oppressive rule and was detained for telling the truth about the war in Ukraine to the Russian people. I spoke with Bill Browder about the situation, and he told me that Mr. Kara-Murza's wife, a permanent U.S. resident, very much wants him home. Mr. Kara-Murza would return to America if released to be with his family.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
**SUBCOMMITTEES:**  
CHAIR – CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND  
CIVIL LIBERTIES  
COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE  
INTERNET  
CRIME, TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
**SUBCOMMITTEES:**  
AVIATION  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
**SUBCOMMITTEES:**  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
WATER, OCEANS, AND WILDLIFE  
CO-CHAIR, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND  
COOPERATION IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI  
COMMISSION)

I understand the delicacy of these types of situations. There is no legitimate legal system in Russia, and the courts are nothing more than a tool for the Kremlin to use against its opponents. We cannot leave these people to be trapped indefinitely in a Russian prison simply because Putin wants to provoke and engage in diplomatic brinkmanship with the United States. I hope you will consider all options in ensuring the release of these three brave individuals. Whether it be through a prisoner swap or other methods, I urge you to please bring them home.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

CC: U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken