

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 25, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

We respectfully request that you bring to the floor our bipartisan, bicameral *Transferring Illicit Assets to Ukraine Act* (S. 4438 / H.R. 7077), which would broaden the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)'s authority to transfer forfeited Russian oligarch assets to Ukraine. DOJ has seized hundreds of millions of dollars of illicit assets that can be immediately transferred to Ukraine if authorized by Congress. This authority is distinct from – but would complement – the agreement struck by G7 leaders to use Russia's sovereign assets as collateral for assistance to Ukraine.¹ As Vladimir Putin intensifies his illegal invasion, we must use every available tool – particularly those with no cost to American taxpayers – to support our Ukrainian allies in their fight for freedom.

Currently, DOJ's forfeited asset transfer authority is limited to four specific Executive Orders. Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco testified that due to the narrow scope of this authority, the U.S. is "leaving a lot of money on the table" and asked Congress to expand this transfer authority to cover export controls and other sanctions.² For example, DOJ indicted Oleg Deripaska, a Russian oligarch, in 2022 for a variety of sanctions violations and seized over \$50 million of illicit assets. These assets cannot be transferred to Ukraine under current authority, but could be under the *Transferring Illicit Assets to Ukraine Act*. Our legislation expands DOJ's asset transfer authority to cover assets forfeited pursuant to any economic countermeasures targeting Russia or Belarus since the illegal invasion of Ukraine began in 2014.

We commend your bipartisan leadership in standing up to Putin. Supporting Ukraine is the best investment to preserve the rules-based international order Americans fought and died to create.

¹ ["G7 leaders agree to lend Ukraine billions backed by Russia's frozen assets. Here's how it will work,"](#) *Associated Press*, June 13, 2024.

² ["Justice Department asks Congress for more authority to give proceeds from seized Russian assets to Ukraine,"](#) *CBS News*, April 19, 2023.

We strongly supported providing additional military aid for Ukraine as well as the *REPO for Ukrainians Act*, which is already being implemented. Now, Congress must also provide simple clarification that seized Russian oligarch assets may also be transferred to Ukraine. The bipartisan, bicameral *Transferring Illicit Assets to Ukraine Act* is supported by DOJ and the State Department and was passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on January 24, 2024. Furthermore, the legislation respects the U.S. taxpayer by making Putin's cronies pay for his barbaric war.

We respectfully request that you expeditiously bring the *Transferring Illicit Assets to Ukraine Act* to the floor. Thank you for your consideration.

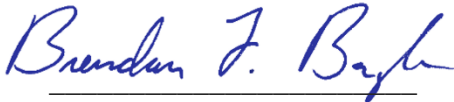
Sincerely,



JOE MANCHIN III
United States Senator



LINDSEY O. GRAHAM
United States Senator



BRENDAN F. BOYLE
United States Representative



WILLIAM R. KEATING
United States Representative



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
United States Representative