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Senator Tom Begich  
*Senate Democratic Leader*

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

Senator Scott Kawasaki



ALASKA SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senator Jesse Kiehl

Senator Donny Olson

Senator Bill Wielechowski

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February 28, 2022

[www.aksenatedems.com](http://www.aksenatedems.com)

The Honorable Michael Dunleavy  
Governor's Office  
Alaska State Capitol Building, 3rd Floor  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

We are writing to request an immediate divestment of Alaska state resources from supporting the Russian Government or Russian state-owned companies, and to support Ukrainians in Alaska and internationally.

On February 24, 2022, Russian soldiers invaded the sovereign democracy of Ukraine. This is a premeditated unjustifiable attack that has already led to the loss of life. Alaska is home to approximately 1,400 Ukrainian Americans – many of whom still have family in Ukraine. We stand in support of Ukrainian Alaskans and their families and countrymen in Ukraine whose lives, liberty, and freedom are threatened by the large-scale Russian invasion. We call on all Alaskans to support their Ukrainian neighbors, donate to organizations supporting Ukrainian humanitarian efforts, and to support any Ukrainian refugees come to Alaska as a result of this conflict. Over the past 5 years, Alaska has already welcomed 100 Ukrainian refugees, and we should welcome more people in the months to come who are displaced. We ask you to join us in urging Alaskans to support – and not disparage – our fellow Russian Alaskans, many of whom are horrified and alarmed by the Russian government's military aggression toward Ukraine.

On February 27, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin placed Russia's nuclear forces on high alert, further escalating tensions and the risk of nuclear war. AS 44.99.120 and AS 44.99.125 requires the state to take action to reduce the risk of nuclear war. We believe these statutes require Alaska to take immediate action by implementing a divestment plan from Russian state-owned companies.

According to the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation statement on the developing situation in Ukraine sent to media on February 25, 2022, investment exposure to Russia represents 0.2% of the Alaska Permanent Fund's total assets under management. That is approximately \$162,000,000 in assets under management. Any investments held or managed by the State of Alaska, including the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation and the Alaska Retirement Management Board, should be reviewed to

limit support for Russian owned business, whether state-owned or controlled by the oligarchic elite who are propping up Putin's regime.

We also request agencies to review state contracts to verify that Alaska is not doing business with Russian state-owned companies, and seek to terminate any such arrangements that may be in place.

President Biden has responded with significant sanctions against Russia, including cutting off large Russian financial institutions and their subsidiaries, banning Russian state-owned companies from raising money in U.S. markets, stopping specific technological imports from the U.S. to Russia, and sanctions on the Russian military and government backed oligarchs. We urge you to fully cooperate with President Biden's administration in implementing these sanctions which have the potential to cripple Putin's ability to continue to finance a war in Ukraine.

Further, we urge you to provide appropriate support and assistance to Ukrainians both here at home and abroad. In particular, Alaska should be prepared to welcome Ukrainian refugees fleeing the Russian invasion.

In addition, we request the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to focus resources on protecting critical state infrastructure from Russian cyber-attacks.

We respectfully urge you to work with legislators and agency staff to help accomplish these goals of holding Russia accountable while supporting the Ukrainian people.

Sincerely,



Senator Bill Wielechowski



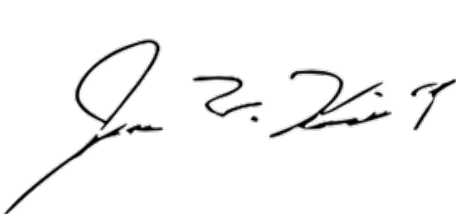
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*Via Email*