

Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, *Maryland*
Chairman



Rep. Steve Cohen, *Tennessee*
Co-Chairman

March 11, 2022

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

Dear President Biden:

Vladimir Putin's illegal, premeditated, and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine must be stopped. Your Administration's efforts to support our Ukrainian friends with defensive arms, impose major sanctions on Russia, and reinforce the NATO Eastern Flank is supported in Congress, and we are all glad to see the United States playing a leading and unifying role with our NATO Allies as well as other international partners to support the people of Ukraine and ensure Putin's international isolation. Putin's blitzkrieg has unified Congress, and we condemn Putin's grotesque war in a single chorus of outrage.

Your Administration's response is helping Ukraine defend itself, but we urge you to take immediate steps to upgrade our formal defense trade relationship with Ukraine by designating it a Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA). Georgia, which lacks Western security guarantees and faces Russian occupation and threats, should also receive an MNNA designation. This designation is a fair reflection of our current bilateral defense relationships and does not commit the United States to military action.

The United States should also take a more proactive posture in favor of Ukrainian and Georgian NATO accession. Although the United States has consistently supported Ukraine's and Georgia's NATO membership, Russia's occupations and ongoing invasion expose the tragedy of long-stalled Euro-Atlantic enlargement. Absent strong and proactive U.S. backing for Ukrainian and Georgian NATO membership, Putin will continue to take ample advantage in his aspirations to upend security and cooperation in Europe and his neocolonial agenda. In the meantime, granting Ukraine MNNA status is but one way for the U.S. to signal our continued support while broadening options available to your Administration for military and economic assistance. Given Putin's objectives to dominate the wider region, such a signal would also be important to Georgia, and consideration should also be given to Moldova, Sweden, and Finland.

There is much more that all of Ukraine's allies and partners can do to continue to provide aid and protect the free world against the blight of Russian aggression. Congress stands ready to do our part to provide additional funds for European defense and deterrence, including financial assistance to facilitate U.S. replacements for transferring allies' MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine, and helping Europe quickly and comprehensively break the chains of Russian energy blackmail. We look forward to working with your Administration on these issues in the weeks and months ahead; some

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of your powers may be especially crucial, such as using the Defense Production Act for surging liquefied natural gas deliveries to Europe. We are ready and eager to strike common ground on this urgent enterprise in support of Europe's freedom.

The heroism shown by President Zelensky, the Ukrainian military, and millions of ordinary Ukrainians against overwhelming Russian force is inspiring. They fight for Ukraine as well as the principles that have kept Europe prosperous and free for decades—a foundation of U.S. national security and global peace—which hundreds of thousands of American soldiers gave their lives to defend. As Ukrainians battle overwhelming odds to hold their country, it is our strong belief that the actions we have recommended and called for here will go far in giving them a fighting chance to succeed.

Thank you for the attention given to this critical situation and for your urgent consideration of these measures.

Sincerely,

Steve Cohen
Co-Chairman

Joe Wilson
Ranking Member

Richard Hudson
Commissioner