

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

April 11, 2014

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Secretary of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretaries Lew and Kerry,

We write to express our deep concern with contracts the Department of Defense (DoD) entered into with the Russian state-arms exporter Rosoboronexport, particularly given Russia's recent actions that violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including its support of the illegal referendum for Crimean separation. We strongly urge you to use the authority provided to you under the expanded Executive Order 13660 to impose sanctions on the firm.

In 2011, DoD entered into a \$375 million contract with Rosoboronexport to procure 21 Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces and later exercised an option to procure 10 additional helicopters for \$171.4 million. Last year, DoD entered into a \$553.8 million contract to procure 30 more Mi-17 helicopters from Rosoboronexport. The contract was entered into despite strong bipartisan opposition in Congress and elsewhere to DoD entering into contracts with an arms dealer that is the main supplier of the weapons the regime of Bashar al-Assad is using to fuel the ongoing war and commit mass atrocities in Syria. Our understanding is that 24 of these helicopters remain to be delivered before the contract is paid in full.

As you know, President Obama expanded Executive Order 13660 providing you with the authority to block "all property and interests in property that are in the United States", including of persons you determine "operate in the arms or related materiel sector in the Russian Federation." We believe this gives you the authority to sanction Rosoboronexport in order to block any payments to the firm for the procurement of the remaining Mi-17 helicopters.

As noted by President Obama in his Executive Order, Russia's recent actions "undermine democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine; threaten its peace, security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and contribute to the misappropriation of its assets, and thereby constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States." Accordingly, we strongly urge you to use your authority to ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are not sent to Russia's state-arms dealer Rosoboronexport.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter.

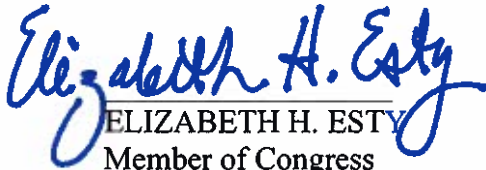
Sincerely,



ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress



KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress



ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress




JACK KINGSTON
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress



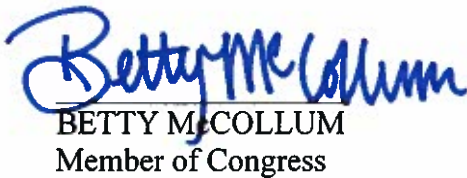
TOM COTTON
Member of Congress



NITA M. LOWEY
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LYNN A. WESTMORELAND
Member of Congress



BETTY McCOLLUM
Member of Congress



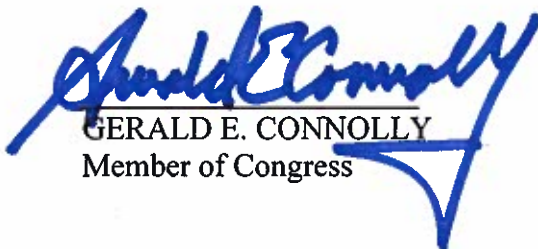
BLAKE FARENTHOLD
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WILLIAM L. ENYART
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AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
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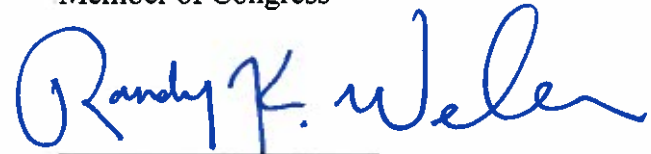


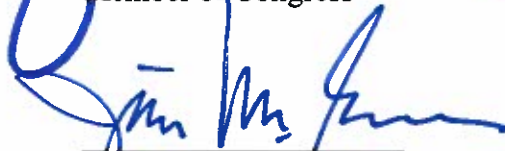
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STEVE STIVERS
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JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
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RANDY K. WEBER, SR.
Member of Congress


JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress


TED POE
Member of Congress


LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress

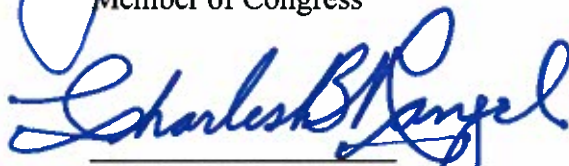

MARTHA ROBY
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JOHN GARAMENDI
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BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress

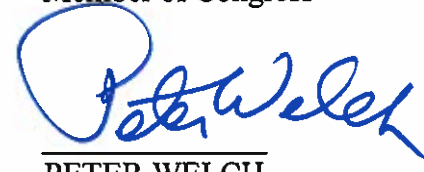

JOHN B. LARSON
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Cc: The Honorable Chuck Hagel