

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

March 19, 2014

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel,

We write once again to express our continued concern with the Department of Defense's (DoD) contracts with the Russian state-arms exporter Rosoboronexport. 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 terminate these contracts.

As you know, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (P.L. 113-66) prohibits DoD from entering into a contract or other business agreement with Rosoboronexport. In addition, your Department announced last year it canceled plans to purchase 15 Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces. These actions were taken namely in response to 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.

While we are pleased to see that future business with Rosoboronexport is terminated, we firmly believe that given Russia's recent escalation of the crisis in Ukraine, current contracts with the Russian arms dealer must be terminated as well. Earlier this week, President Obama expanded Executive Order 13660 to impose sanctions on "persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State: to operate in the arms or related materiel sector in the Russian Federation," which, along with DoD's authority to exercise termination of convenience clauses in its contracts when doing so is in the Federal government's interest, should allow you to terminate DoD's current contracts with Rosoboronexport.

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." We agree and accordingly strongly urge you to cancel contracts with Rosoboronexport for the delivery of Mi-17s to the Afghan National Security Forces, for supplying spare parts or for the sustained maintenance of these helicopters.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress



KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable John F. Kerry, Secretary of State
The Honorable Jacob J. Lew, Secretary of the Treasury