

October 25, 2023

The Honorable James Michael Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Majority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

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

Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine since February 2022 has been an assault on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and an egregious affront to the rules-based international order and the values and freedoms we hold dear. As Russia has prolonged this war, military forces under Vladimir Putin's command have perpetrated atrocities and Putin has weaponized global food and energy supplies and attempted to intimidate Ukraine and the international community by resorting to nuclear threats.

Thanks to timely and bipartisan support from Congress, the United States has been able to deliver crucial funding and military assistance to Kyiv that has allowed the Ukrainian people to effectively defend their freedom and stave off the worst consequences of Russian aggression. **We, a nonpartisan group of national security and foreign policy professionals, urge you to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to Ukraine and democracy around the world by bringing to a vote without delay a measure that fully addresses the critical Ukraine-related funding needs identified in the President's emergency supplemental request.**

As Ukraine pushes its counteroffensive against Russian forces, ongoing and bipartisan support from Congress for additional security, economic, and humanitarian aid is crucial to ensure Ukraine can continue to defend—and retake—its territory, and ultimately win this war. Strong congressional support also sends an unmistakable message to Russia and other would-be aggressors that the United States will stand united against threats to democracy and sovereignty. This also sends a powerful warning to Xi Jinping that territorial aggression will fail and be met with a forceful international response.

Since the start of the war, security assistance from the United States and our allies, as well as with Ukrainians' heroic efforts to defend against invading forces, has been instrumental in helping Ukrainian armed forces deny a Russian victory in Ukraine, deter Russia from attacks beyond Ukraine, and degrade Russian aggressive military capabilities. Our support has made the United States, Ukraine, and the world safer and more secure and helped restore confidence and trust in the United States as a reliable, responsible, and effective international actor. It is essential that the United States and its allies and partners ensure that Ukraine has the capabilities and extended support it needs for its counteroffensive.

The international community must not allow Russia to normalize its illegal and blatant violation of Ukraine's sovereign territory and the atrocities it is committing on the ground. Doing so would not only

embolden Putin's territorial ambitions elsewhere but also encourage those who share his aim of building a new international order that serves authoritarian interests. Providing robust support now will prevent higher costs in the future and reduce the prolonged suffering of the Ukrainian people. If Putin prevails, it would dramatically increase the likelihood of a Russian conflict directly with our closest treaty allies, putting American lives at risk, and escalate the potential threat of nuclear conflict.

The Ukrainian people and army under the leadership of Volodymyr Zelenskyy have displayed incredible resilience and fortitude in the face of Russian aggression and war crimes. They are fighting tirelessly for self-determination, freedom, and justice, not just for themselves, but for the world. As President Zelenskyy said to Congress last Christmas, "This struggle will define in what world our children and grandchildren will live, and then their children and grandchildren."

The President's emergency supplemental request also includes critical funding to strengthen strategic partnerships and advance U.S. interests in the face of mounting geopolitical competition and compounding global crises. The international response to Russia's invasion, galvanized by U.S. leadership, demonstrates that the strength of our international relationships truly is our greatest strategic asset. Transatlantic diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation is driving greater alignment and progress on issues ranging from defense and resilient supply chains to energy security and even managing our relationship with the People's Republic of China. This supplemental request includes important resources to counter malign actors and deepen security and critical supply chain partnerships with developing countries. The requested funding for development and infrastructure finance would leverage tens of billions more in private investment and help position the United States as a strategic and economic partner of choice in an increasingly contested global environment.

Continued U.S. assistance to Ukraine and developing countries hit hard by the spillover effects of Russia's invasion is vital to securing victory for Ukraine on their terms, including Russian withdrawal from Ukraine's recognized borders and deterrence from future attacks.

We encourage your strategic and moral leadership at this critical moment to ensure the prompt passage of the President's supplemental request for security and other assistance to Ukraine.

Sincerely,

**Ambassador (ret.) Robert B. Zoellick**

*14th Deputy Secretary of State*

**Ambassador (ret.) John J. Sullivan**

*19th Deputy Secretary of State and former  
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*Former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy*

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Center Bethesda*

**Ambassador (ret.) Niels Marquardt**  
*Former Ambassador to Madagascar and the Comoros*

**Dr. Patrick W. Quirk**  
*Former Member, Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff*

**Ambassador (ret.) Michele Thoren Bond**  
*Former Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs and former Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho*

**Ambassador (ret.) Clifford G. Bond**  
*Former Coordinator for US Assistance to Ukraine, Embassy Kyiv*

**Stephen K. Keat**  
*Former Foreign Service Officer*

**Major General Randy Manner, USA (ret.)**  
*Former Deputy Commander, Third Army and Acting Vice Chief, National Guard Bureau*

**Ambassador (ret.) Michael D. Kirby**  
*Former Ambassador to Moldova and Serbia*

**Mike Kostiw**  
*Former Senate Armed Services Committee Republican Staff Director*

**Ambassador (ret.) John M. Jones**  
*Former Ambassador to Guyana*

**Ambassador (ret.) Derek Mitchell**  
*Former Ambassador to Myanmar (Burma) and Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense*

**Major General Albert J. Madora, USA (ret.)**  
*Former Director, Army Program & Budget Evaluation, Office of the Chief of Staff*

**David S. Sedney**  
*Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia*

**Dr. Eric Rudenshiold**  
*Former Director for Central Asia, National Security Council*

**John Sipher**  
*Former Senior Service, CIA Clandestine Service*

**Brigadier General David R. Irvine, USA (ret.)**  
*Former Deputy Commander, 96th Regional Readiness Command*

**Ambassador (ret.) Ints M. Silins**  
*Former Ambassador to Latvia*

**Greg Thielmann**  
*Former Director of Strategic, Proliferation, and Military Affairs, State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research*

**Ambassador (ret.) Michael S. Klecheski**  
*Former Ambassador to Mongolia*

**Jon Gundersen**  
*Former Chargé d'Affaires to Ukraine*

**Ambassador (ret.) James E. Goodby**  
*Former Ambassador to Finland*

**John Woodworth**  
*Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy*

**Ambassador (Ret.) Edward Brynn**  
*Former Ambassador to Burkina Faso and Ghana*

**Hon. Toby Trister Gati**  
*Former Special Assistant to the President, Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine, and the Eurasian States, National Security Council and former Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research*

**Robert Nurick**  
*Former Director of the Carnegie Moscow Center*

**Jon Greenwald**  
*Former Senior Foreign Service Officer and Vice President, the International Crisis Group*

**Hon. Eric Green**  
*Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia and Central Asia, National Security Council*

**William G. P. Monahan**

*Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for  
Regional Security and Security Assistance*

**Ambassador (ret.) Alexa Wesner**

*Former Ambassador to Austria*

**Ambassador (ret.) Ted Osius**

*Former Ambassador to Vietnam*

**Ambassador (ret.) J. Thomas Schieffer**

*Former Ambassador to Japan and Australia*

**Susan Thornton**

*Former Acting Assistant Secretary of State for  
East Asian and Pacific Affairs*

**Ambassador (ret.) Robert F. Cekuta**

*Former Ambassador to Azerbaijan*

**Ambassador (ret.) Donna J. Hrinak**

*Former Ambassador to Brazil*

**Rear Admiral John Hutson, USN (ret.)**

*former Judge Advocate General of the Navy*