

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 31, 2014

The Honorable President Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

The situation in Ukraine continues to deteriorate, with serious implications both for Ukraine and more broadly. We support your decision to impose tougher sanctions on Russia. However, based on continued Russian aggression and their provision of advanced weaponry to separatists in eastern Ukraine, it is increasingly apparent that sanctions alone are not sufficient and that the government of Ukraine desperately needs America's help. We respectfully request that your administration provide Kyiv the weapons needed to defend the Ukrainian people against continued Russian aggression and protect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Ukrainian people, their democratically elected government, and the Ukrainian armed forces have demonstrated a willingness to defend their country. Hundreds of Ukrainians have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of Ukraine. However, Ukraine confronts Russian-backed separatists who are well-armed by Moscow. President Putin has continued to send advanced weaponry into Ukraine even after the Russian-backed separatists there murdered 298 people on Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

As the Kremlin has sent tanks, armored vehicles, rocket launchers, and advanced air defense systems, the Ukrainian government has repeatedly requested lethal assistance from the United States. While the United States has provided helpful non-lethal assistance, your administration has not provided weapons as Ukraine has requested. There are even reports that the United States is not yet providing real-time intelligence to Ukraine. This kind of real-time intelligence would help Ukraine locate and target the type of anti-aircraft systems that downed Flight 17. It would also help Kyiv reduce the likelihood that additional Ukrainian military aircraft will get shot down by the anti-aircraft systems that Russia has provided the separatists.

On December 5, 1994, the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, and Ukraine signed the Budapest Memorandum. Ukraine agreed to surrender its nuclear weapons stockpile left behind after the break-up of the Soviet Union in return for a commitment from the signatories to respect Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Russia has clearly violated those commitments by illegally invading and annexing Crimea, as well as arming Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. As a party to the Budapest Memorandum, we believe we have a responsibility to provide more help to Kyiv.

We also believe that the United States of America is not and must not be neutral when a free people and their democratically elected government stand against aggression and seek to choose

their own future. Putin has invaded and annexed Crimea, while instigating and fueling a war in eastern Ukraine. Ukraine is under attack by Moscow. The Ukrainian people are seeking to defend their country, and they have asked the United States for help.

A failure to provide appropriate lethal assistance to Ukraine would lead Putin to conclude that the West is not willing to stand against his aggression and clear violations of international law. Such a failure would also leave the Ukrainian people and other free people around the world with the impression that the United States' support for freedom is more rhetorical than substantive. Such a failure could also inadvertently encourage nuclear armed nations to never relinquish their nuclear weapons, and it would dangerously suggest that nuclear-aspirant nations should redouble their efforts to acquire such weapons.

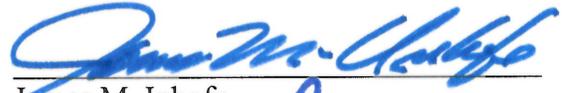
The Ukrainian people are willing to risk their lives to defend their country against Putin's aggression, but the Ukrainian government desperately needs assistance. We believe the United States should provide the Ukrainian government lethal assistance it needs without delay, and we respectfully call on your administration to do so.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

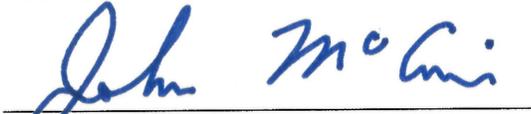
Sincerely,



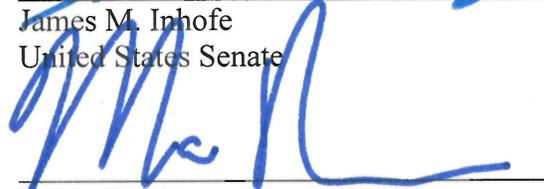
Kelly A. Ayotte  
United States Senate



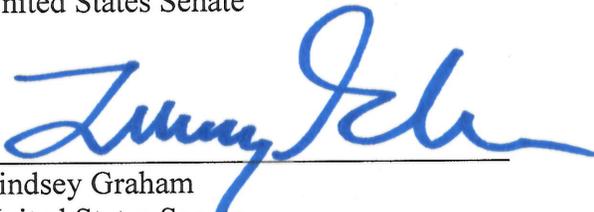
James M. Inhofe  
United States Senate



John McCain  
United States Senate



Marco Rubio  
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Lindsey Graham  
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