

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to you today in support of establishing an international humanitarian aid airlift into Ukraine to deliver urgently needed supplies to the Ukrainian people. As the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine continues to kill civilians and destroy homes, it is necessary for the United States to act immediately to save lives.

While we commend your Administration for taking action to approve Congressional funding for humanitarian and military aid for Ukraine and working with our allies and partners to impose sanctions on Russian President Putin and his government, more must be done to support the people of Ukraine and stop the war.

As the fighting continues, many Ukrainians still in Ukraine are trapped in bomb shelters, basements, and subways where they have limited access to food, water, and medicine, among other necessary supplies. Previous agreements between Russia and Ukraine to guarantee humanitarian corridors for aid delivery into Ukraine have so far proven to be unreliable and inconsistent at distributing aid to the hardest hit areas of the country, especially as Russian shelling continues to destroy roads and endanger transportation routes. Further, U.S. intelligence warns that the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv could run out of food and water in days.¹

As your Administration searches for more options, we strongly urge the consideration of a humanitarian airlift of urgently needed nonmilitary supplies organized and supported by the U.S. In response, Russia would be forced to either agree to supporting the delivery of humanitarian aid or threaten to shoot down planes carrying food and water to a war-torn country, which would further isolate Russia on the world stage and motivate stronger international action.

This proposal does carry risks that planes could be shot down entering Ukrainian airspace. Therefore, we urge your Administration to immediately reach out to nations viewed as nonthreatening to recruit pilots for these flights, including Brazil, India, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates. Flights flown from countries viewed as non-hostile to Russia into Ukraine for humanitarian missions makes it difficult for President Putin to declare them as enemy combatants and motivates Russian forces to take strict measures to avoid targeting them.

¹ Seldin, Jeff. "US Intelligence Warns of 'Ugly next Few Weeks' for Ukraine." VOA, 9 Mar. 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/6476412.html>.

Further, we urge you to also instruct U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Lina Thomas-Greenfield to build support at the United Nations for an expanded international humanitarian airlift into Ukraine. This will ensure a continuous humanitarian aid corridor by air to address urgent needs from Ukrainians for basic supplies.

The U.S. has a moral responsibility to save lives where possible in Ukraine. Establishing and organizing an international humanitarian aid airlift provides the U.S. and our allies and partners with a non-escalatory method of accomplishing this while countering Putin's goal to starve the people of Ukraine.

CC: Antony Blinken, United States Secretary of State

CC: Linda Thomas-Greenfield, United States Ambassador to the United Nations

CC: Samantha Power, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development

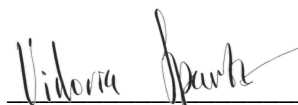
Sincerely,



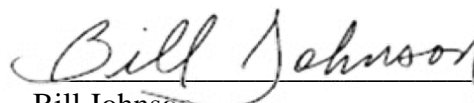
Young Kim
Member of Congress



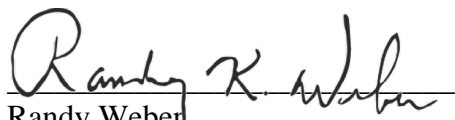
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



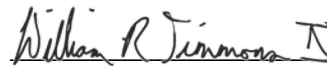
Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons, IV
Member of Congress



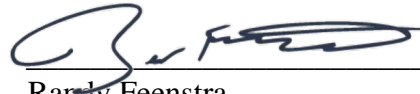
Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



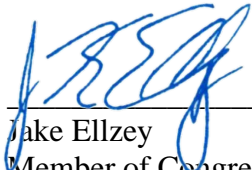
Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



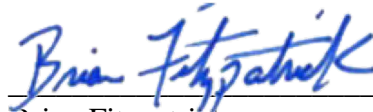
Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



French Hill
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/

Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



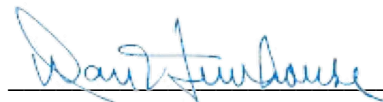
Steve Chabot
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Ron Estes
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Mike Carey
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Dan Newhouse
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