Following the 2020 US elections, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the nation’s largest representative body of Americans of Ukrainian descent, issued a statement expressing to newly elected officials that Ukrainian Americans are united in their belief that a democratic and independent Ukraine is in the national security interests of the United States. Included in that statement was the bipartisan sentiment that any “retreat from current sanctions against the Russian Federation and its proxies, or from continued military, political and economic support of Ukraine by the United States, would entail terrifying consequences for Ukraine, our European partners and the global geo-political security structure.”

UCCA was therefore heartened to hear US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at his Senate confirmation hearing in January speak unequivocally about stopping the NordStream 2 pipeline: "I'm determined to do whatever I can to prevent that completion," relating that President Biden “would have us use every persuasive tool that we have to convince our friends and partners including Germany not to move forward with it.”
NordStream 2 pipeline as "fundamentally bad deal for Europe" specifically because, in his words, it would "lock in great reliance on Russia [which] will fundamentally destabilize Ukraine."

Therefore, when it was reported on May 18 that the State Department, in listing to Congress which entities involved in NordStream 2 construction deserve sanctions, would instead “cite U.S. national interests,” and waive the application of sanctions against the company behind project — NordStream 2 AG and its CEO Matthias Warnig — we must ask of this administration: why is the United States not doing all it can to prevent Vladimir Putin from accomplishing one of his biggest priorities?

NordStream 2 is a geopolitical scheme designed to provide Putin’s Russia with additional malign influence on our European allies and partners. Instead of standing by Ukraine, these proposed waivers contradict in letter and spirit the intent behind the bipartisan sanctions regime passed by Congress: preventing the completion of the NordStream 2 pipeline.

In light of Defense Department officials reporting this month that close to 80,000 Russian troops remain on the border with Ukraine (the biggest force Russia has amassed there since 2014), President Biden should maintain the commitments made to our allies in Eastern Europe, and continue America’s bipartisan record of support for Ukraine. Instead of issuing waivers, the United States should be strengthening sanctions and ratcheting up the pressure on Russia to leave Ukrainian territory.

As a strategic partner of Ukraine, the United States should further demonstrate leadership among allies by supporting a Membership Action Plan for Ukraine at this summer’s NATO Summit. Following 13 years of bureaucratic stalling in Brussels, the time has come for the United States to clarify if it still upholds its commitments made in Bucharest in 2008, when NATO made clear that Ukraine would become a signatory member of the transatlantic alliance one day.
Dear Secretary Blinken,

Thank you for your efforts to strengthen the transatlantic relationship and commitment to liberty in Ukraine and Central and Eastern Europe as exemplified by your recent trip to Ukraine. As co-chairs of the U.S.-Ukraine Congressional Task Force, we write with deep concern with the state of energy security in Ukraine and Central Eastern Europe. We strongly urge the Department of Energy to approve the necessary liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports from the United States to Ukraine.

The Energy Security Investment Act (ESIA) and the Administration’s approval of the export licenses for the FLEX facility in Cameron, Texas, are a critical first step in a broader strategy to diversify Ukraine’s energy sources and enhance its energy security. The Administration’s decision to approve these licenses is a significant and welcome step forward.

As you know, the Russian Federation poses a strategic threat to Ukraine and the region’s energy security. The Russian Federation’s aggressive actions, including its annexation of Crimea and military intervention in eastern Ukraine, have undermined the stability and security of Ukraine and the wider region.

Moreover, Ukraine is a key partner in the U.S.-led effort to counter Russian aggression and promote peace in the region. The Administration’s support for Ukraine’s energy security is crucial to advancing these objectives.

We urge the Administration to continue to take strong action to support Ukraine’s energy security, including by approving additional liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports from the United States to Ukraine. This move would bolster Ukraine’s energy security, enhance its energy independence, and contribute to the stability and security of the region.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

MAY 3, 2021

[Letterhead]
We invite Descendants of all Holodomor victims to add your voice to our Holodomor Descendants’ Network. Participation in the Network may be at a level that is comfortable and meaningful for you given your individual circumstances. Join in order to receive information on research, activities, events or join to be more active in sharing family accounts and actively supporting awareness/educational/commemoration initiatives. The choice will be yours.

Learn More

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The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan community-based organization that has represented the interests of Ukrainians in the United States since 1940.