

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

June 27, 2019

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON:  
TAX POLICY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON:  
SOCIAL SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON:  
OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE ON  
THE BUDGET

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am concerned by your meeting with Vladimir Putin tomorrow, which will be held on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.

In November 2018, Ukrainian boats and their 24 crew members were detained by the Russian coast guard and taken to Kerch, in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian region of Crimea. The sailors were arrested and placed in pretrial detention on charges of illegally crossing what Russia refers to as its state border. The major escalation by Putin brought international condemnation. Following this incident, you canceled a planned meeting with Putin at the last G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires. Additionally, a United Nations court ruled last month that Russia must release the Ukrainian sailors. Despite the condemnations and the ruling, Putin still refuses to release the Ukraine sailors. I am concerned that even though Putin has not released the Ukrainian sailors, you have granted Vladimir Putin a formal meeting set to take place tomorrow.

I urge you to remain steadfast in demanding the release of these Ukrainian sailors. The illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula by Russia in 2014 remains a direct challenge to international security, with grave implications for the international legal order that protects the unity of sovereignty of all States. The construction of the Kerch bridge constitutes a further violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is critical that you reiterate the United States' full support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine during your meeting with Vladimir Putin.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress