



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

September 3, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
United States State Department
2100 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretaries Blinken and Yellen:

We understand that the State Department and Department of Treasury recently imposed a series of sanctions on the Putin Regime for its use of Novichok to poison Aleksey Navalny in 2020. To be clear, the United States should impose effective sanctions on Russia for the poisoning of Aleksey Navalny and other citizens, like Sergei and Yulia Skripal. However, your Administration, in conjunction with these sanctions, included a ban on ammunition imports from Russia. Wholesalers, retailers, small businesses, gun owners, and shooting sportsmen rely on ammunition imported from Russia and are rightfully concerned that this is an attempt at gun control. We strongly urge your Administration to reverse this ban.

Less than 1% of Russia's total exports sent to the U.S. are firearms and ammunition. These exports are valued at \$123.53 million. Compared to the sanctions that your Administration lifted on the \$11 billion Nord Stream 2 pipeline, the impact of this ammunition ban will prove to have a negligible effect on the Putin Regime.

This ban will certainly be more punitive to American citizens than to Russia. Already, there is an ammunition shortage in our country that is driving up prices for consumers. According to MKS Supply, one of the largest importers of Russian ammunition, the United States imports as much as 30-40% of its ammunition from Russia, and the ban would exacerbate this shortage further.

The Chemical and Biological Weapons Control Act was designed to control the buildup of chemical and biological weapons. In order to better understand the action you have taken, can you explain how banning Russian ammunition contributes to this goal and provides proper

punishment for the poisoning of Aleksey Navalny? Until we receive a response, we will have to presume that this ban is an attempt to restrict Americans' right to bear arms—bypassing Congress to implement gun control.

Reversing course and reimposing sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline would be much more effective in holding Russia accountable for its criminal wrongdoing and a much greater deterrent to future bad behavior.

While we hope that American ammunition manufacturers will produce more ammunition to stabilize the current market, your attempt at circumventing Congress and enacting gun control will not go unchecked. We ask that you immediately vacate this new ban on the import of Russian ammunition and look forward to receiving your prompt response.

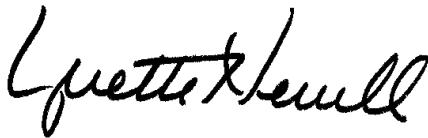
God bless,



Michael Cloud
United States Representative



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Yvette Herrell
United States Representative



Andrew S. Clyde
United States Representative



Jeff Duncan
United States Representative



Robert Aderholt
United States Representative



Scott Perry
United States Representative



Doug Lamborn
United States Representative



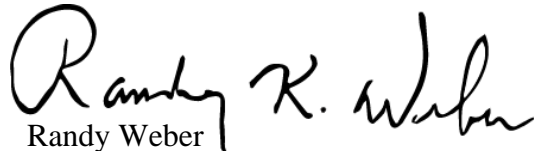
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United States Representative



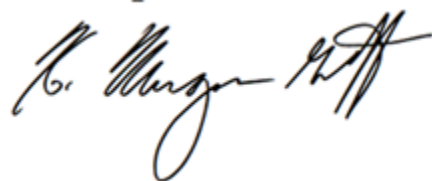
Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
United States Representative



Debbie Lesko
United States Representative



Andy Harris, M.D.
United States Representative



H. Morgan Griffith
United States Representative



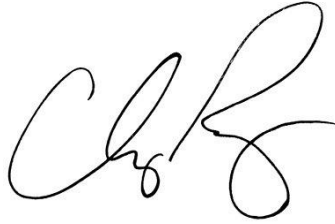
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