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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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May 16, 2018

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

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Secretary Pompeo:

We ask that you take immediate action to determine whether Russian national Vladimir Yevtushenkov meets the criteria to be sanctioned under the appropriate authorities and also to consider whether he and his business activities have been engaged in possible violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

As you know, on January 29, 2018, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of State, published the unclassified report to Congress pursuant to Section 241 of the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA; Public Law 115-44)) on senior political figures and oligarchs in the Russian Federation. Entry 95 in Appendix B of the report ("List of Oligarchs") lists Vladimir Yevtushenkov, the majority owner and chairman of AFK Sistema holding company. The shares of Sistema's largest asset, the telecom provider Mobile TeleSystems (MTS), are traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

According to publicly available information, Mr. Yevtushenkov's companies have been involved in large-scale investment and construction projects in the Crimea region of Ukraine that has been illegally occupied and annexed by the Russian Federation. In October 2016, at a meeting held in the annexed Crimea, Russian President Vladimir Putin confirmed that "Vladimir Petrovich [Yevtushenkov] and AFK Sistema... will be constructing multipurpose medical facilities in Sebastopol and in the Republic of Crimea."

Under CAATSA, several Executive Orders relating to the situation in Ukraine and the Crimea region have been codified, including E.O. 13685. Section 2(a) of E.O. 13685 provides for blocking the property and interests in the United States of "any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State: (i) to operate in the Crimea region of Ukraine; (ii) to be a leader of an entity operating in the Crimea region of Ukraine." Based on the information provided above, we respectfully request that you consider making such designation with regard to Vladimir Yevtushenkov and Sistema.

In addition, according to reports by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, MTS has been engaging in corrupt business practices involving the government of Uzbekistan. The U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) have been conducting investigations into MTS's activities in Uzbekistan, and MTS has been referenced in a civil forfeiture complaint by the DoJ, which targets an unnamed Uzbek government official. Therefore, we respectfully request that you also consider whether there are grounds for further investigation into the activities of Mr. Yevtushenkov and Sistema with regard to possible violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Again, within all applicable rules and regulations, we urge the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State, working with other relevant Executive Branch agencies, to promptly investigate Vladimir Yevtushenkov, AFK Sistema holding company, and Mobile TeleSystems, and if merited, to sanction them as authorized under CAATSA, any relevant Executive Order, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN  
Member of Congress



MARK WALKER  
Member of Congress