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One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

March 1, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It has become clear that, in the conduct of their unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and their abhorrent targeting of civilian noncombatants, Vladimir Putin and the armed forces of the Russian Federation are committing war crimes in violation of United States and/or international law.¹ Yesterday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky clearly stated that the Russian bombardment of civilian areas in Kharkiv was a war crime. The world needs to put Russian commanders and troops on notice that they will not enjoy impunity for these atrocities. We owe that accountability to the valiant people of Ukraine.

For this reason, we respectfully urge you to direct the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the U.S. Intelligence Community, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and other relevant federal agencies and departments to collect, compile, and retain evidence and information related to Russian war crimes in Ukraine, in order to make it available to support the effective prosecution of Russian war criminals in appropriate courts and tribunals, and the targeting of additional sanctions against them. We expect that you will keep Congress apprised of such activities through regular reports and briefings.

¹ Such law includes, for example: 18 U.S.C. §2441 (War crimes committed against U.S. nationals); the international conventions signed at Geneva 12 August 1949 and any protocols to such conventions to which the United States is a party; and Articles 23, 25, 27, and 28 of the Annex to the Hague Convention IV, Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, signed 18 October 1907.

To maximize the deterrent effect, we respectfully request that you publicly announce today that these efforts are underway. As their Ukraine invasion becomes a protracted conflict, Russian troops need to know that the world is watching, and they will be held accountable.

Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs
Committee



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



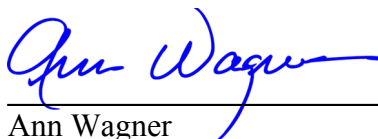
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



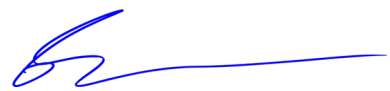
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



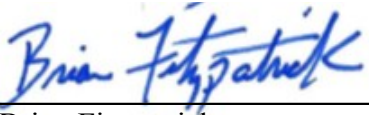
Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Brian J. Mast
Member of Congress



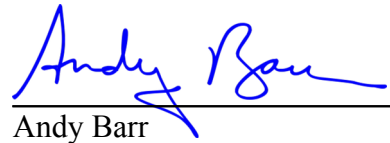
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



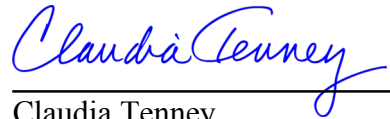
Mark E. Green, MD
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Daniel Meuser
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