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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](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov)

March 8, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

In the wake of Vladimir Putin's renewed invasion of Ukraine and the administration's post-invasion sanctions, we write today to encourage your administration to work with our allies and partners to ensure that Russia is not able to circumvent those sanctions through the use of digital assets. It is critical that we work together to promote common understanding of how digital assets are used and how sanctions can be most effectively applied.

The underlying technology for most of these digital assets is a digital distributed ledger known as blockchain. That ledger is a real-time public accounting of transactions. Through the blockchain, each participant can transparently and securely transfer digital assets "person to person" without the need for an intermediary.

Digital assets, for example, have played a role in providing aid around the globe allowing people to directly give money to important causes without the delay often associated with other conventional means such as sending personal checks and money orders. Of note, we are seeing donations in the form of digital assets from around the world flood into Ukraine.

At the same time, there is also concern that Russia, like Iran and North Korea, may use digital assets to evade sanctions. It has been widely reported that a forthcoming United Nations report will lay out how North Korea has used ransomware to steal cryptocurrency to directly fund its nuclear program and evade sanctions. Now more than ever we must work with our allies to close potential gaps in sanctions measures and ensure digital asset trading platforms are fully complying with sanctions and identifying exposure to sanctioned parties in order to help stop Russia's actions against Ukraine.

The United States and its allies have taken critical steps toward isolating Russia, and now we must continue coordinating to ensure that these actions fully achieve their intended costs—preventing Russia from powering its war machine. To that end we request the following information:

- To what extent is the administration working with allies and partners to mitigate the use of digital assets by Russia to evade sanctions?
- Please describe what work the administration is doing with which allies and partners to help fill any gaps in sanctions enforcement that may be exploited by Russia via Russia's potential use of digital assets?
- What communication, if any, has the administration had with digital asset trading platforms to ensure compliance with sanctions?
- Has the administration directed any additional resources towards enforcing sanctions to ensure that Russia feels the maximum impact?
- Does the administration need more resources to address this new challenge to our sanctions regime?
- Who is the lead government entity for coordinating the U.S. government response to this potential use of digital assets by Russia and other rogue states?

Sincerely,



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Michael T. McCaul  
Ranking Member  
House Foreign Affairs  
Committee



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Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



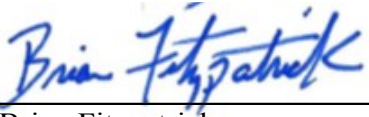
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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



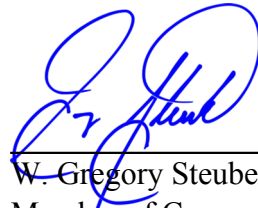
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Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



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Peter Meijer M.C.  
Member of Congress



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Young Kim  
Member of Congress