United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 2050

Dear President Trump:

We write with deep concern and confusion over your administration's recent decision to ease sanctions on Russian and Iranian oil exports. These actions speak once again to the troubling lack of strategic foresight that has marked your administration's decision-making prior to and during its war of choice with Iran, jeopardizing the lives of our servicemembers across the region and raising costs for Americans here at home.

The administration's lack of strategic cohesion on the war in Iran is having a direct impact on the economy and is endangering our servicemembers. Open source reporting suggests that prior to starting this war of choice, you and your administration were regularly briefed on, and dismissed, the potential economic fallout of a conflict with Iran.[1] These warnings included the regime's likely closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the resulting severe spike in global oil prices. Now that those impacts are being felt in Americans' pocketbooks, your administration is scrambling – and failing – to contain this fallout. The administration's abrupt March 20 decision to waive certain sanctions on Iranian oil sales will do little to mitigate rising costs even while opening a massive source of new revenue – per press reports, as much as $14 billion – for the very regime that U.S. servicemembers are risking their lives to strike.[2]

Open source reporting also suggests Russia began sharing sensitive intelligence with the Iranian military within the first days of the start of this conflict, including targeting information for U.S. military forces in the Middle East.[3] Russia's direct military support for Iran would alone make shocking your decision to ease sanctions on their oil exports, but Russia is already set to make as much as $4.9 billion from surging oil prices – your sanctions waiver will undoubtedly add to that sum, enabling Russian President Vladimir Putin to redouble and extend pressure on our Ukrainian partners as they struggle to defend their country against his aggression.[4] [5]

The war in Iran is deeply unpopular, and Americans have made clear that they do not want another costly, protracted conflict in the Middle East.[6] The economic effects of the war are already raising costs, with Americans being asked to pay even more for gas, groceries, and

[1] https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/10/us/politics/how-trump-miscalculated-iran-response.html?smid=url-share
[2] https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/23/business/trump-iran-sanctions-relief-oil.html
[3] https://www.wsj.com/world/russia-is-sharing-satellite-imagery-and-drone-technology-with-iran-0dd95e49
[4] https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cm2871wyz9ko
[5] https://www.ft.com/content/dd973148-b6a1-4096-97da-3090a058fe08?syn-25a6b1a6=1
[6] https://yougov.com/en-us/articles/54343-donald-trump-is-losing-support-from-independents-over-iran-march-13-16-2026-economist-yougov-poll

travel. Relieving sanctions on U.S. adversaries during an active conflict is just the most recent indicator of an incoherent and disordered policy approach. Economic relief for Americans starts with the cessation of wars of choice, not the continuation of them.

We demand that you make senior officials of your Administration immediately available for public hearings in order to fully explain to the American people the rationale behind the decision to release these funds to the Russian and Iranian regimes.

Sincerely,

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Ruben Gallego
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

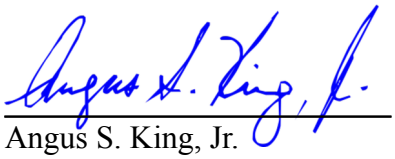
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

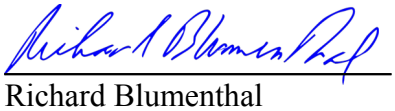
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

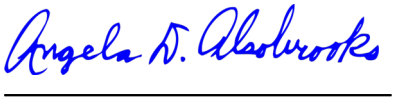
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



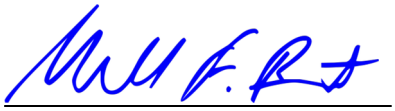
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



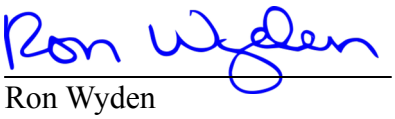
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator

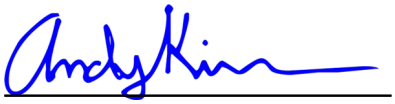


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

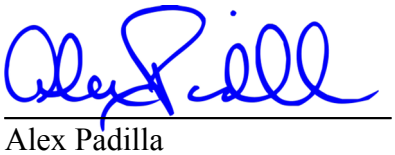
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator