United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 29, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write to urge you to promptly obligate fiscal year (FY) 2026 funds from the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INCLE) account for emergency assistance to Ukraine. Russia's brutal attacks on Ukraine in recent weeks underscore the critical need for the United States to help Ukraine strengthen its ability to defend its people and critical infrastructure. According to the United Nations, in October 2026 alone, Russian attacks have killed more than 150 Ukrainian civilians, including seven children. Russia has also increased attacks against Kyiv's energy infrastructure, causing severe electricity and water disruptions. These funds are urgently needed as Ukraine approaches another difficult winter.

Despite clear congressional intent to provide INCLE funds for Ukraine, the Department of State inexplicably reprogrammed $50 million in FY 2025 INCLE funds that Congress had directed for Ukraine to the Western Hemisphere. The timely delivery of U.S. assistance to Ukrainian mobile fire teams, law enforcement, border security and first responders is critical to protecting Ukraine's civilians and safeguarding critical infrastructure. The Department should explain the rationale for the recent INCLE reprogramming and to prioritize the use of FY 2026 funds to support Ukraine's urgent needs.

Earlier this year, Congress directed $80 million in INCLE funding for the Europe and Eurasia region.[1] Congress has repeatedly recognized the importance of assistance for Ukraine in past appropriations bills. In FY 2024, Congress provided $300 million in supplemental INCLE funding specifically for Ukraine and countries affected by Russia's full-scale invasion as an important tool to support Ukraine's civilian protection, border security, law enforcement and anti-corruption capabilities.

The Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs supports mobile fire teams, border guards and other law enforcement personnel who help protect Ukrainian civilians and infrastructure from increasing Russian attacks. This assistance can have an immediate, direct impact in saving lives and helping Ukraine protect its energy infrastructure and civilian population from Russia's vicious attacks.

We understand that during the Department's recent foreign assistance review, INCLE programming was approved to be continued—indicating that the Department found these programs to be beneficial to the interests of the United States. Helping Ukrainians protect their infrastructure strengthens a partner providing the United States with critical military insights and

[1] Joint Explanatory Statement, at 30, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, P.L. 119-75.

supports the approximately one hundred and twenty American businesses operating in Ukraine. In addition to saving lives, INCLE funds support Ukraine's law enforcement and anti-corruption institutions. Strengthening the rule of law and combating corruption in Ukraine also advance American economic interests and helps create a stronger, more transparent environment for U.S. businesses seeking to invest and participate in Ukraine's reconstruction.

Delaying the obligation of FY 2026 funds risks leaving Ukrainian citizens and infrastructure more vulnerable at a critical moment. We urge the Department to move quickly to obligate FY 2026 funds so assistance can begin to reach Ukraine as soon as possible ahead of the upcoming winter.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

CC: A/S Weiland, A/S Hanrahan