

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 6, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

On the heels of the strong bipartisan vote to provide resources to counter Russian aggression in Ukraine and reinforce our allies, we write to express serious concerns regarding your administration's plans to waive sanctions that would allow French-owned company Électricité de France (EDF) to engage in civil nuclear projects with Rosatom, Russia's state-owned nuclear energy company. This waiver will result in more money in Putin's coffers to fund his brutal war of aggression against Ukraine and suppression of democracy. We urge you to reject this proposal and instead call for you to fully implement E.O. 14024, which your administration authored, sanctioning Rosatom and its subsidiaries.

Exempting EDF from U.S. sanctions would allow it to acquire a subsidiary of a major U.S. company that was engaged in civil nuclear projects with Rosatom in Hungary, Turkey, and Egypt – projects that have been suspended for several years due to sanctions. EDF would then provide turbines and related foundational technology for those projects, thereby facilitating Russian energy influence and related corruption in those countries likely for decades. Given your administration's stated policy goals and the severe threat that overdependence on Russian energy poses to transatlantic security, it is incomprehensible that your administration would consider actively perpetuating this dependence.

We understand the civil nuclear industry is complicated and reducing global dependence on Russian civil nuclear technology will require a deliberate, phased-in approach. However, it is inconsistent with your statements to do all we can to stop Russia's assault. It is not clear how waiving U.S. sanctions to facilitate these specific projects, in countries where Russian influence is already a problem, supports U.S. interests.

The threat of U.S. sanctions stalled these projects and lent credibility to the U.S. commitment to longstanding, bipartisan European energy security goals. By waiving sanctions, you would weaken American credibility, undermine ongoing efforts to counter Russian energy coercion and malign influence, and send the wrong message to allies and adversaries alike about our commitment to imposing meaningful costs on Russia for its actions in Ukraine. Furthermore, you would enable the strategic corruption that feeds Russian influence and erodes democratic institutions and norms.

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In a recent briefing provided to Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee staff, the State Department was unable to provide any insights into the rationale for waiving the sanctions or the benefit to the United States. We were also unable to get answers as to how issuing this sanctions license is consistent with U.S. strategy to bolster European energy security, impose costs on Russia, or support U.S. industry-provided alternatives to Rosatom.

Waiving U.S. sanctions so a French company can partner with Rosatom in countries where Russian influence should be countered simply does not make sense. It would undermine U.S. energy security goals, run contrary to your own strategy on civil nuclear supply chain diversification, and send a terrible message about the administration's commitment to enforcing sanctions. Fortunately, there is still time to avoid these consequences. We urge you to reject this sanctions license for EDF and instead implement E.O. 14024 imposing sanctions on Rosatom and its subsidiaries as punishment for Putin's unprovoked war of aggression in Ukraine.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James E. Risch in blue ink.

JAMES E. RISCH  
Ranking Member  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Handwritten signature of Michael T. McCaul in blue ink.

MICHAEL T. McCAUL  
Chairman  
House Foreign Affairs Committee