United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 23, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20451

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Bessent:

Yesterday, Treasury announced new designations of Russia's two largest oil companies.[1] After a nine-month pause on targeted Russia sanctions under your leadership, it is critical to also restart sanctions on those evading U.S. measures.

One month ago, we pressed you specifically to counter China's brazen defiance of U.S. sanctions on Russia's Arctic LNG 2 project – a revenue stream worth billions for Russia's war machine that had previously been disrupted by consistent, targeted U.S. sanctions.[2] You refused to act, and the consequences have become impossible to ignore: Russia has now offloaded its tenth shipment of sanctioned LNG to a Chinese port.[3] What began as a test of American credibility has become a conspicuous failure of sanctions enforcement, emboldening Russia and China while undermining our own national security and stated objective to help end the war in Ukraine.

While President Trump has criticized other countries for providing energy revenue to Russia, America's own inaction is enabling a flagship Russian project to rise from the dead. As market analysts warned weeks ago, "[t]he offloading of Russia's Arctic LNG 2 cargoes in China is testing US willingness to enforce sanctions."[4] Each cargo of sanctioned Russian gas that arrives in China without consequence sends an unmistakable signal to every potential sanctions evader worldwide – that U.S. warnings carry no weight and that Putin can outlast American pressure while continuing his brutal attacks on Ukrainian civilians. The U.S. sanctions regime, built over years and successfully deployed to halt Arctic LNG 2 operations last year,[5] is being rendered toothless through inaction against evaders.

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[1] U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Treasury Sanctions Major Russian Oil Companies, Calls on Moscow to Immediately Agree to Ceasefire," press release, October 22, 2025, https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0290.

[2] Letter from Senators Warren, Whitehouse, Coons, Kaine, Booker, Van Hollen, Kim, and Alsobrooks to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, September 19, 2025, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/20250918_letter_on_russia_sanctions_to_sec_rubio_and_sec_bessentpdf.pdf.

[3] Bloomberg, "Russia Steps Up Exports of US-Sanctioned LNG in Test for Trump," Stephen Stapczynski, October 13, 2025, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-10-14/russia-steps-up-exports-of-us-sanctioned-lng-in-test-for-trump.

[4] Energy Intelligence, "Russia, China Test US Sanctions With Arctic LNG 2 Trade," Chase Winter, October 2, 2025, https://www.energyintel.com/00000199-9cb9-dd7b-a5bb-bfb9e9410000.

[5] Bloomberg Law, "Russia's Arctic LNG 2 Plant Halts Amid Tightening US Sanctions," October 25, 2024, https://news.bloomberglaw.com/international-trade/russias-arctic-lng-2-plant-halts-amid-tightening-us-sanctions.

You failed to respond to the questions we posed on September 19, even as Treasury has worked during the shutdown to bail out Argentina's wealthy hedge fund investors in order to help out the President's political ally before an election.[6] We expect answers to all previously submitted questions no later than November 6, 2025.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator

[6] The New York Times, "Big Investors Await Windfall From Trump's Argentina Bailout," Alan Rappeport and Maria Abi-Habib, October 9, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/09/us/politics/argentina-bailout-investors.html.