

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8219

To encourage Hungary to end its reliance on Russian energy and prevent Hungary's efforts to obstruct financial or security assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 9, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR (for herself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To encourage Hungary to end its reliance on Russian energy and prevent Hungary's efforts to obstruct financial or security assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Barring Leverage and
5 Obstruction that Contributes to Kremlin Profits Under-
6 mining Transatlantic Interests and NATO Act” or the
7 “BLOCK PUTIN Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) The Russian Federation’s full-scale invasion
4 of Ukraine in February 2022 has demonstrated the
5 strategic risks of Europe’s dependence on the Rus-
6 sian Federation for energy, specifically oil and gas.

7 (2) Following the Russian Federation’s invasion
8 of Ukraine, the United States, the European Union,
9 and their partners imposed broad, punitive sanctions
10 on the Russian Federation that limited the Russian
11 Federation’s income from energy.

12 (3) In May 2022, the European Commission
13 launched the REPowerEU initiative to phase out de-
14 pendence on Russian energy sources before 2028.

15 (4) Since February 2022, the European Union
16 has subsequently reduced its dependence on Russian
17 fossil fuels by approximately 90 percent by cutting
18 oil imports by more than 90 percent and reducing
19 pipeline gas deliveries by roughly 80 percent.

20 (5) Most European countries have undertaken
21 significant measures to reduce their Russian energy
22 imports in accordance with the REPowerEU initia-
23 tive, but Hungary and Slovakia requested exemp-
24 tions to the timeline.

25 (6) Since February 2022, Hungary increased
26 its dependence on Russian energy by an estimated

1 30 percent, providing approximately \$6,700,000,000
2 in crude oil revenue to the Russian Federation be-
3 tween February 24, 2022, and December 31, 2024.

4 (7) On September 23, 2025, President Donald
5 Trump said member countries of the European
6 Union had “to immediately cease all energy pur-
7 chases from Russia”.

8 (8) On October 23, 2025, the Council of the
9 European Union adopted the 19th package of re-
10 strictive measures against the Russian Federation,
11 including—

12 (A) a ban on imports of Russian liquefied
13 natural gas into the European Union;

14 (B) a full transaction ban on Rosneft and
15 Gazprom Neft;

16 (C) measures against third-country opera-
17 tors (which enable the Russian Federation’s
18 revenue streams), 2 Chinese refineries, and a
19 Chinese oil trader; and

20 (D) strengthened enforcement against
21 maritime circumvention and the “shadow fleet”.

22 (9) In October 2025, the United States imposed
23 secondary sanctions on Lukoil and Rosneft.

24 (10) Hungary has shown no sign of reducing its
25 dependence on Russian fossil fuels.

1 (11) In November 2025, Hungary reportedly
2 received an exemption from sanctions imposed by
3 the United States related to its continued purchase
4 of Russian oil and gas.

5 (12) In February 2026, Hungary blocked a
6 €90,000,000,000 loan package by the European
7 Union intended for Ukraine’s military and budget
8 support and blocked the proposed 20th European
9 Union sanctions package, demanding in exchange
10 the resumption of Russian oil transit through the
11 Druzhba pipeline.

12 (13) Slovakia has vowed to follow Hungary’s
13 example and block the provision of European Union
14 funds to Ukraine if Hungarian Prime Minister
15 Viktor Orban loses his election.

16 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

17 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
18 gress that it is in the national security interests of the
19 United States—

20 (1) to encourage countries to diversify from
21 Russian energy; and

22 (2) for European Union member states to fi-
23 nance support for Ukraine.

24 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
25 of the United States to hold Hungary accountable for ac-

1 tions that undermine the national security interests of the
2 United States described in subsection (a).

3 **SEC. 4. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days
6 thereafter, the President shall impose the sanctions de-
7 scribed in subsection (c) with respect to the individuals
8 described in subsection (b).

9 (b) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—The individuals de-
10 scribed in this subsection are senior officials of the Gov-
11 ernment of Hungary that, on or after the date of the en-
12 actment of this Act—

13 (1) take steps to block, delay, or otherwise ob-
14 struct additional financial or security assistance to
15 Ukraine through bilateral, European Union, North
16 Atlantic Treaty Organization, or other multilateral
17 mechanisms; or

18 (2) approve or continue to facilitate oil or nat-
19 ural gas imports from the Russian Federation.

20 (c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
21 scribed in this subsection are the following:

22 (1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President
23 shall exercise all of the powers granted to the Presi-
24 dent by the International Emergency Economic
25 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that

1 the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50
2 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent nec-
3 essary to block and prohibit all transactions in prop-
4 erty and interests in property of an individual de-
5 scribed in subsection (b) if such property and inter-
6 ests in property are in the United States, come with-
7 in the United States, or are or come within the pos-
8 session or control of a United States person.

9 (2) INADMISSIBILITY OF CERTAIN INDIVID-
10 UALS.—

11 (A) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION,
12 OR PAROLE.—An alien described in subsection
13 (b) is—

14 (i) inadmissible to the United States;
15 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
16 documentation to enter the United States;
17 and

18 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
19 or paroled into the United States or to re-
20 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
21 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
22 seq.).

23 (B) CURRENT VISA REVOKED.—

24 (i) IN GENERAL.—An alien described
25 in subparagraph (A) is subject to revoca-

tion of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) DECREASED DEPENDENCY ON RUSSIAN OIL AND GAS AND ALLOWING ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE.—The President shall not impose sanctions under this section if the Government of Hungary has—

(A) formally adopted and begun implementation of a public, time-bound plan to end the dependency of Hungary on oil and natural gas imports from the Russian Federation that includes a binding commitment to achieve substantial diversification of oil and natural gas imports before 2028; and

(B) for a continuous period of not less than 180 days, ceased any official action, to block, delay, or otherwise obstruct additional financial or security assistance to Ukraine through bilateral, European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or other multilateral mechanisms.

(2) COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to comply with United States obligations under—

(i) the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947;

(ii) the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967; or

(iii) any other international agreement; or

1 (B) to carry out or assist law enforcement
2 activity in the United States.

3 (3) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVI-
4 TIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply
5 to—

6 (A) any activity subject to the reporting
7 requirements under title V of the National Se-
8 curity Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

9 (B) any authorized intelligence activities of
10 the United States.

11 (4) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE PROVISION
12 OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under
13 this section may not be imposed with respect to
14 transactions or the facilitation of transactions for—

15 (A) the sale of agricultural commodities,
16 food, medicine, or medical devices;

17 (B) the provision of humanitarian assist-
18 ance;

19 (C) financial transactions relating to hu-
20 manitarian assistance; or

21 (D) transporting goods or services that are
22 necessary to carry out operations relating to
23 humanitarian assistance.

24 (e) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-
25 tion of sanctions under this section for a period not to

1 exceed 180 days if the President determines and certifies
2 to the appropriate committees of Congress that—

3 (1) the waiver is vital to the national security
4 interests of the United States; and

5 (2) the individual has committed to refrain
6 from engaging in any action described in subsection
7 (b) for a period of not less than one year.

8 (f) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on
9 the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Sec-
10 retary of State submits to the appropriate committees of
11 Congress a written certification that the Government of
12 Hungary has—

13 (1) formally adopted and begun implementation
14 of a public, time-bound plan to end the dependency
15 of the country on oil and natural gas imports from
16 the Russian Federation that includes a binding com-
17 mitment to achieve substantial diversification of oil
18 and natural gas imports by not later than one year
19 from the date of such termination; and

20 (2) for a continuous period of not less than 180
21 days, ceased any official action to block, delay, or
22 otherwise obstruct additional financial or security
23 assistance to Ukraine through bilateral, European
24 Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or other
25 multilateral mechanisms.

1 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY
3 ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The
4 terms “admission”, “admitted”, “alien”, and “law-
5 fully admitted for permanent residence” have the
6 meanings given those terms in section 101 of the
7 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

8 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
9 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
10 gress” means—

11 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
12 the Senate; and

13 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
14 the House of Representatives.

15 (3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
16 “United States person” means—

17 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
18 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
19 United States;

20 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
21 the United States or any jurisdiction within the
22 United States, including a foreign branch of
23 such an entity; or

24 (C) any person located in the United
25 States.

1 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FACILI-**
2 **TATION OF HUNGARIAN PURCHASES OF RUS-**
3 **SIAN OIL AND GAS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
6 Treasury and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit
7 to the committees specified in subsection (c) a report that
8 provides the justification for any United States Govern-
9 ment facilitation of purchases of Russian Federation oil
10 and national gas by the Government of Hungary or any
11 related entities.

12 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
13 (a) shall include—

14 (1) a detailed description of—

15 (A) any license or comfort letter issued on
16 or after October 22, 2025, to, or for the benefit
17 of, the Government of Hungary or Hungarian
18 individuals or entities that were related to oil,
19 petroleum products, or natural gas of Russian
20 Federation origin, including with respect to
21 transactions involving energy companies or fi-
22 nancial institutions designated for the imposi-
23 tion of sanctions;

24 (B) the period of effectiveness of any li-
25 cense or comfort letter described in subpara-
26 graph (A);

1 (C) any foreign policy guidance by the De-
2 partment of State conveyed to the Department
3 of the Treasury related to the issuance of any
4 license or comfort letter described in subpara-
5 graph (A); and

6 (D) any information communicated to the
7 Government of Hungary regarding the potential
8 renewal or extension of any license or comfort
9 letter described in subparagraph (A); and

10 (2) an estimate of the total quantity of oil and
11 gas of Russian Federation origin purchased by the
12 Government of Hungary or Hungarian individuals or
13 entities, by volume and dollar value, since the effec-
14 tive date of any license or comfort letter described
15 in paragraph (1)(A).

16 (c) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees speci-
17 fied in this subsection are—

18 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
19 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
20 fairs of the Senate; and

21 (2) the Committee of Foreign Affairs and the
22 Committee on Financial Services of the House of
23 Representatives.

- 1 (d) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
2 shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may in-
3 clude a classified annex.

