

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1490

To establish and authorize funding for a Russia Sanctions Enforcement Fund to enforce United States sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation and its illegal ghost ship fleet to pay off the United States public debt and to codify the Export Enforcement Coordination Center.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 10, 2025

Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish and authorize funding for a Russia Sanctions Enforcement Fund to enforce United States sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation and its illegal ghost ship fleet to pay off the United States public debt and to codify the Export Enforcement Coordination Center.

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 “Global Hunt for Off-
5 shore Smuggling and Trafficking Act of 2025” or the
6 “GHOST Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. RUSSIA SANCTIONS ENFORCEMENT FUND.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, there shall be estab-
4 lished in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be
5 known as the “Russia Sanctions Enforcement Fund” (in
6 this section referred to as the “Fund”), to pay expenses
7 relating to seizures and forfeitures of property made with
8 respect to violations by the Russian Federation and cov-
9 ered merchant ships of sanctions imposed by the United
10 States.

11 (b) DESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATOR.—Not later
12 than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
13 the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with
14 the Secretary of the Treasury, shall appoint an adminis-
15 trator for the Fund (in this section referred to as the “Ad-
16 ministrator”).

17 (c) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may au-
19 thorize amounts from the Fund to be used, without
20 further appropriation or fiscal year limitation, for
21 payment of all proper expenses relating to a covered
22 seizure or forfeiture, including the following:

23 (A) Investigative costs incurred by a law
24 enforcement agency of the Department of
25 Homeland Security or the Department of Jus-
26 tice.

1 (B) Expenses of detention, inventory, secu-
2 rity, maintenance, advertisement, or disposal of
3 the property seized or forfeited, and if con-
4 demned by a court and a bond for such costs
5 was not given, the costs as taxed by the court.

6 (C) Costs of—

7 (i) contract services relating to a cov-
8 ered seizure or forfeiture;

9 (ii) the employment of outside con-
10 tractors to operate and manage properties
11 seized or forfeited or to provide other spe-
12 cialized services necessary to dispose of
13 such properties in an effort to maximize
14 the return from such properties; and

15 (iii) reimbursing any Federal, State,
16 or local agency for any expenditures made
17 to perform the functions described in this
18 subparagraph.

19 (D) Payments to reimburse any covered
20 Federal agency for investigative costs incurred
21 leading to a covered seizure or forfeiture.

22 (E) Payments for contracting for the serv-
23 ices of experts and consultants needed by the
24 Department of Homeland Security or the De-

1 partment of Justice to assist in carrying out
2 duties related to a covered seizure or forfeiture.

3 (F) Awards of compensation to informers
4 for assistance provided with respect to a viola-
5 tion by the Russian Federation or a covered
6 merchant ship of sanctions imposed by the
7 United States that leads to a covered seizure or
8 forfeiture.

9 (G) Equitable sharing payments made to
10 other Federal agencies, State and local law en-
11 forcement agencies, and foreign governments
12 for expenses incurred with respect to a covered
13 seizure or forfeiture.

14 (H) Payment of overtime pay, salaries,
15 travel, fuel, training, equipment, and other
16 similar expenses of State or local law enforce-
17 ment officers that are incurred in joint law en-
18 forcement operations with a covered Federal
19 agency relating to covered seizure or forfeiture.

20 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF FUND FOR AD-
21 DITIONAL PURPOSES.—The Secretary of Homeland
22 Security may direct the Administrator to authorize
23 the use of amounts in the Fund for the following:

24 (A) Payment of awards for information or
25 assistance leading to a civil or criminal for-

1 feiture made with respect to a violation by the
2 Russian Federation or a covered merchant ship
3 of sanctions imposed by the United States and
4 involving any covered Federal agency.

5 (B) Purchases of evidence or information
6 by a covered Federal agency with respect to a
7 violation by the Russian Federation or a cov-
8 ered merchant ship of sanctions imposed by the
9 United States that leads to a covered seizure or
10 forfeiture.

11 (C) Payment for equipment for any vessel,
12 vehicle, or aircraft available for official use by
13 a covered Federal agency to enable the vessel,
14 vehicle, or aircraft to assist in law enforcement
15 functions relating to a covered seizure or for-
16 feiture, and for other equipment directly related
17 to a covered seizure or forfeiture, including lab-
18 oratory equipment, protective equipment, com-
19 munications equipment, and the operation and
20 maintenance costs of such equipment.

21 (D) Payment for equipment for any vessel,
22 vehicle, or aircraft for official use by a State or
23 local law enforcement agency to enable the ves-
24 sel, vehicle, or aircraft to assist in law enforce-
25 ment functions relating to a covered seizure or

1 forfeiture if the vessel, vehicle, or aircraft will
2 be used in joint law enforcement operations
3 with a covered Federal agency.

4 (E) Reimbursement of individuals or orga-
5 nizations for expenses incurred by such individ-
6 uals or organizations in cooperating with a cov-
7 ered Federal agency in investigations and un-
8 dercover law enforcement operations relating to
9 a covered seizure or forfeiture.

10 (3) PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN
11 THE FUND.—In allocating amounts from the Fund
12 for the purposes described in paragraphs (1) and
13 (2), the Administrator shall prioritize activities that
14 result in the seizure and forfeiture of oil or petro-
15 leum products or other commodities or methods of
16 exchange that fund the efforts of the Russian Fed-
17 eration or a covered merchant ship to carry out eva-
18 sive or deceptive acts.

19 (d) MANAGEMENT OF FUND.—The Fund shall be
20 managed and invested in the same manner as a trust fund
21 is managed and invested under section 9602 of the Inter-
22 nal Revenue Code of 1986.

23 (e) FUNDING.—

24 (1) INITIAL FUNDING.—

1 (A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
 2 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
 3 to the Fund \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2026,
 4 to remain available until expended.

5 (B) REPAYMENT OF INITIAL FUNDING.—

6 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Sep-
 7 tember 30, 2036, the Administrator shall
 8 transfer from the Fund into the general
 9 fund of the Treasury an amount equal to
 10 \$150,000,000, as adjusted pursuant to
 11 paragraph (3).

12 (ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The
 13 repayment of amounts under clause (i)
 14 shall not be construed as a termination of
 15 the authority for the operation of the
 16 Fund.

17 (2) MAXIMUM END-OF-YEAR BALANCE.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—If, at the end of a fis-
 19 cal year, the amount in the Fund exceeds the
 20 amount specified in subparagraph (B), the Ad-
 21 ministrator shall transfer the amount in excess
 22 of the amount specified in subparagraph (B) to
 23 the general fund of the Treasury for the pay-
 24 ment of the public debt of the United States.

1 (B) AMOUNT SPECIFIED.—The amount
 2 specified in this subparagraph is—

3 (i) in fiscal year 2026, \$500,000,000;

4 and

5 (ii) in any fiscal year thereafter,
 6 \$500,000,000, as adjusted pursuant to
 7 paragraph (3).

8 (3) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts described
 10 in paragraphs (1)(B)(i) and (3)(B)(ii) shall be
 11 adjusted, at the beginning of each of fiscal
 12 years 2027 through 2036, to reflect the per-
 13 centage (if any) of the increase in the average
 14 of the Consumer Price Index for the preceding
 15 12-month period compared to the Consumer
 16 Price Index for fiscal year 2025.

17 (B) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DEFINED.—
 18 In this paragraph, the term “Consumer Price
 19 Index” means the Consumer Price Index for All
 20 Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of
 21 Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

22 (f) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any expenditure of amounts
 24 in the Fund, or transfer of amounts from the Fund,
 25 not authorized by this section is prohibited.

1 (2) ACTS BY CONGRESS.—Any Act of Congress
2 to remove money from the Fund shall be reported in
3 the Federal Register not later than 10 days after
4 the enactment of the Act.

5 (g) REPORT.—Not later than September 1, 2026,
6 and annually thereafter through September 1, 2036, the
7 Secretary of Homeland Security, with the concurrence of
8 the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to the appro-
9 priate congressional committees a report on—

10 (1) all activities supported by the Fund during
11 the fiscal year during which the report is submitted
12 and the preceding fiscal year;

13 (2) a list of each covered seizure or forfeiture
14 supported by the Fund during those fiscal years
15 and, with respect to each such seizure or for-
16 feiture—

17 (A) the goods seized;

18 (B) the current status of the forfeiture of
19 the goods;

20 (C) an assessment of the impact on the na-
21 tional security of the United States of the sei-
22 zure or forfeiture, including the estimated loss
23 of revenue to the person from which the goods
24 were seized; and

1 (D) any anticipated response or outcome of
2 the seizure or forfeiture;

3 (3) the financial health and financial data of
4 the Fund as of the date of the report;

5 (4) the amount transferred to the general fund
6 of the Treasury under subsection (e) or (h);

7 (5)(A) the amount paid to informants for infor-
8 mation or evidence under subsection (c);

9 (B) whether the information or evidence led to
10 a seizure; and

11 (C) if so, the cost of the goods seized;

12 (6) the amount remaining to be transferred
13 under subsection (e)(2) and an estimated timeline
14 for transferring the full amount required by that
15 subsection; and

16 (7)(A) any instances during the fiscal years
17 covered by the report of a covered seizure or for-
18 feiture if, after amounts were expended from the
19 Fund to support the seizure or forfeiture, the seizure
20 or forfeiture did not occur as a result of a policy de-
21 cision made by the Secretary of Homeland Security,
22 the President, or any other official of the United
23 States; and

24 (B) a description of the costs incurred and rea-
25 sons the seizure or forfeiture did not occur.

1 (h) FAILURE TO REPORT OR UTILIZE THE FUND.—

2 (1) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO SUBMIT RE-
3 PORT.—If a report required by subsection (g) is not
4 submitted to the appropriate congressional commit-
5 tees by the date that is 180 days after the report is
6 due under subsection (g), the Administrator shall
7 transfer an amount equal to 5 percent of the
8 amounts in the Fund to the general fund of the
9 Treasury for the payment of the public debt of the
10 United States. For each 90-day period thereafter
11 during which the report is not submitted, the Ad-
12 ministrator shall transfer an additional amount,
13 equal to 5 percent of the amounts in the Fund, to
14 the general fund of the Treasury for that purpose.

15 (2) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO USE FUND.—If a
16 report submitted under subsection (g) indicates that
17 amounts in the Fund have not been used for any
18 seizure or forfeiture activity during the fiscal years
19 covered by the report, the Fund shall be terminated
20 and any amounts in the Fund shall transferred to
21 the general fund of the Treasury for the payment of
22 the public debt of the United States.

23 (3) WAIVER OF TERMINATION OF FUND FOR
24 NATIONAL SECURITY PURPOSES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the President deter-
2 mines that it is in the national security inter-
3 ests of the United States not to terminate the
4 Fund as required by paragraph (2), the Presi-
5 dent may waive the requirement to terminate
6 the Fund.

7 (B) REPORT REQUIRED.—If the President
8 exercises the waiver authority under subpara-
9 graph (A), the President shall submit to the ap-
10 propriate congressional committees a report de-
11 scribing the factors considered in determining
12 that it is in the national security interests of
13 the United States not to terminate the Fund.

14 (C) FORM.—The report required by sub-
15 paragraph (B) shall be submitted in unclassi-
16 fied form, but may include a classified annex.

17 (i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
18 tion may be construed to affect the requirements of sub-
19 section (e) of the Justice for United States Victims of
20 State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C. 20144) or the
21 operation of the United States Victims of State Sponsored
22 Terrorism Fund under that subsection.

23 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Banking, Housing,
5 and Urban Affairs and the Committee on
6 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
7 of the Senate; and

8 (B) the Committee on Financial Services
9 and the Committee on Homeland Security of
10 the House of Representatives.

11 (2) COVERED FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term
12 “covered Federal agency” means any Federal agency
13 specified in section 3(b).

14 (3) COVERED MERCHANT SHIP.—The term
15 “covered merchant ship” means a flag ship trans-
16 porting oil subject to sanctions imposed by the
17 United States for the Russian Federation or an or-
18 ganization that works on behalf of, or receives finan-
19 cial or material support from, the Government of the
20 Russian Federation, including Gazprom.

21 (4) COVERED SEIZURE OR FORFEITURE.—The
22 term “covered seizure or forfeiture” means a seizure
23 or forfeiture of property made with respect to a vio-
24 lation by the Russian Federation or a covered mer-

1 chant ship of sanctions imposed by the United
2 States.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPORT ENFORCEMENT CO-**
4 **ORDINATION CENTER.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland
6 Security shall operate and maintain, within Homeland Se-
7 curity Investigations, the Export Enforcement Coordina-
8 tion Center, as established by Executive Order 13558 (50
9 U.S.C. 4601 note) (in this section referred to as the “Cen-
10 ter”).

11 (b) PURPOSES.—The Center shall serve as the pri-
12 mary center for Federal Government export enforcement
13 efforts among the following agencies:

14 (1) The Department of State.

15 (2) The Department of the Treasury.

16 (3) The Department of Defense.

17 (4) The Department of Justice.

18 (5) The Department of Commerce.

19 (6) The Department of Energy.

20 (7) The Department of Homeland Security.

21 (8) The Office of the Director of National Intel-
22 ligence.

23 (9) Such other agencies as the President may
24 designate.

25 (c) COORDINATION AUTHORITY.—The Center shall—

1 (1) serve as a conduit between Federal law en-
2 forcement agencies and the intelligence community
3 (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security
4 Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))) for the exchange
5 of information related to potential violations of
6 United States export controls;

7 (2) serve as a primary point of contact between
8 enforcement authorities and agencies engaged in ex-
9 port licensing;

10 (3) coordinate law enforcement public outreach
11 activities related to United States export controls;

12 (4) serve as the primary deconfliction and sup-
13 port center to assist law enforcement agencies to co-
14 ordinate and enhance investigations with respect to
15 export control violations;

16 (5) establish integrated, governmentwide statis-
17 tical tracking and targeting capabilities to support
18 export enforcement; and

19 (6) carry out additional duties as assigned by
20 the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding the
21 enforcement of United States export control laws.

22 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—The Executive Associate Di-
23 rector of Homeland Security Investigations shall—

24 (1) serve as the administrator of the Center;
25 and

1 (2) maintain documentation that describes the
 2 participants in, funding of, core functions of, and
 3 personnel assigned to, the Center.

4 (e) DIRECTOR; DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—

5 (1) DIRECTOR.—The Center shall have a Direc-
 6 tor, who shall be—

7 (A) a member of the Senior Executive
 8 Service (as defined in section 2101a of title 5,
 9 United States Code) and a special agent within
 10 Homeland Security Investigations; and

11 (B) designated by the Secretary of Home-
 12 land Security.

13 (2) DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—The Center shall
 14 have 2 Deputy Directors, as follows:

15 (A) One Deputy Director, who shall be—

16 (i) a full-time employee of the Depart-
 17 ment of Commerce; and

18 (ii) appointed by the Secretary of
 19 Commerce.

20 (B) One Deputy Director, who shall be—

21 (i) a full-time employee of the Depart-
 22 ment of Justice; and

23 (ii) appointed by the Attorney Gen-
 24 eral.

25 (f) LIAISONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES.—

1 (1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY LIAISON.—An
 2 intelligence community liaison shall be detailed to
 3 the Center. The liaison shall be—

4 (A) a full-time employee of an element of
 5 the intelligence community; and

6 (B) designated by the Director of National
 7 Intelligence.

8 (2) LIAISONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—A liaison shall be de-
 10 tailed to the Center by each agency specified in
 11 subparagraph (B). Such liaisons shall be special
 12 agents, officers, intelligence analysts, or intel-
 13 ligence officers, as appropriate.

14 (B) AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—The agencies
 15 specified in this subparagraph are the following:

16 (i) Homeland Security Investigations.

17 (ii) U.S. Customs and Border Protec-
 18 tion.

19 (iii) The Office of Export Enforce-
 20 ment of the Bureau of Industry and Secu-
 21 rity of the Department of Commerce.

22 (iv) The Federal Bureau of Investiga-
 23 tion.

24 (v) The Defense Criminal Investiga-
 25 tive Service.

1 (vi) The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
2 Firearms and Explosives.

3 (vii) The National Counterintelligence
4 and Security Center of the Office of the
5 Director of National Intelligence.

6 (viii) The Department of Energy.

7 (ix) The Office of Foreign Assets Con-
8 trol of the Department of the Treasury.

9 (x) The Directorate of Defense Trade
10 Controls of the Department of State.

11 (xi) The Office of Export Administra-
12 tion of the Bureau of Industry and Secu-
13 rity.

14 (xii) The Office of Enforcement Anal-
15 ysis of the Bureau of Industry and Secu-
16 rity.

17 (xiii) The Office of Special Investiga-
18 tions of the Air Force.

19 (xiv) The Criminal Investigation Divi-
20 sion of the Army.

21 (xv) The Naval Criminal Investigative
22 Service.

23 (xvi) The Defense Intelligence Agency.

24 (xvii) The Defense Counterintelligence
25 and Security Agency.

- 1 (xviii) Any other agency, at the re-
2 quest of the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
3 rity.

