

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6384

To impose sanctions relating to persons operating the Nord Stream 2 pipeline,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2018

Mr. HUFFMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, 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 impose sanctions relating to persons operating the Nord
Stream 2 pipeline, 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 “Countering Russian
5 Power Plays Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO**
2 **NORD STREAM 2.**

3 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that the United States—

5 (1) should stand by its allies in Europe in com-
6 bating Russian influence and energy coercion;

7 (2) opposes the Nord Stream 2 pipeline because
8 of its detrimental impacts on—

9 (A) the energy security of the European
10 Union;

11 (B) the ability of the European Union to
12 meet its renewable energy goals; and

13 (C) energy reforms in Ukraine;

14 (3) has a vested interest in the security, eco-
15 nomic stability, and political security of Ukraine,
16 and that reducing gas transfers through Ukraine by
17 means of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline would risk de-
18 stabilizing that country; and

19 (4) notwithstanding its opposition to the Nord
20 Stream 2 pipeline, recognizes the European Union's
21 proper and fundamental need to secure diverse, reli-
22 able energy sources, for which the purchase of Rus-
23 sian gas may be an unavoidable component.

24 (b) SANCTIONS IMPOSED.—Subject to subsection (d),
25 the President shall impose five or more sanctions de-
26 scribed in section 235 of the Countering America's Adver-

1 saries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9529) with re-
2 spect to each person described in subsection (c).

3 (c) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The persons described in
4 this subsection are each person the President deter-
5 mines—

6 (1) operates the Nord Stream 2 pipeline or sells
7 Russian gas to Europe through the Nord Stream 2
8 pipeline; or

9 (2) engages in a significant transaction with the
10 Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

11 (d) CONDITIONS; DELAYED APPLICATION.—

12 (1) CONDITIONS.—The President shall impose
13 sanctions with respect to persons described in sub-
14 section (c)(1) only if the President determines
15 that—

16 (A) average Russian gas flows through
17 Ukraine to Europe over a period of 12 consecu-
18 tive months beginning after the date of the en-
19 actment of this Act are less than 75 percent of
20 the average annual Russian gas flows through
21 Europe via Ukraine during the three-year pe-
22 riod ending on the date of the enactment of this
23 Act;

1 (B) Ukraine maintained a reasonable
 2 standard of operation of gas pipelines during
 3 such 12-month period;

4 (C) Ukraine has not raised transit fees by
 5 more than five percent in such 12-month pe-
 6 riod; and

7 (D) there is no other good cause justifying
 8 for the reduction of gas flows through Ukraine
 9 during such 12-month period.

10 (2) DELAYED APPLICATION.—The President
 11 may not impose sanctions with respect to a person
 12 described in subsection (c)(2) before the date that is
 13 180 days after the President imposes sanctions with
 14 respect to any person described in subsection (c)(1).

15 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES-EUROPEAN UNION ENERGY COUN-**
 16 **CIL.**

17 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

18 (1) The United States–European Union Energy
 19 Council (“Council”) was established in 2009 to
 20 deepen coordination on transatlantic energy matters,
 21 including research and development cooperation.

22 (2) The Secretary of State co-chairs the Council
 23 with the Secretary of Energy for the United States.
 24 The High Representative for External Affairs and
 25 the Vice President for Energy Union and Commis-

1 sioner for Energy and Climate serve as co-chairs for
2 the European Union.

3 (3) The Council provides a high-level, bilateral
4 method to address energy issues, including means to
5 develop alternatives to Russian-supplied gas in Eu-
6 rope, in order to promote European security.

7 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress that the Secretary of State and the Secretary of En-
9 ergy should convene, in coordination with the European
10 Union co-chairs, a meeting of the Council on an annual
11 basis, and that the next such meeting should occur not
12 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
13 this Act.

14 (c) REPORT ON ENERGY SUPPORT STRATEGY.—Not
15 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
16 this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the
17 Secretary of Energy, shall submit to Congress a report
18 on the comprehensive strategy of the United States to sup-
19 port European energy security that also includes an anal-
20 ysis of each of the following:

21 (1) Energy supplies that could be provided by
22 the United States or other allies to European coun-
23 tries.

24 (2) Steps to reduce European reliance on Rus-
25 sian energy sources.

1 (3) Methods to accelerate emerging energy
2 sources or related technologies.

3 (4) Potential industrial partnerships, inter-
4 national financing arrangements, and trade agree-
5 ments to bolster European energy security.

6 (5) Legal and political considerations that could
7 unnecessarily hinder the United States or allied
8 countries from supporting European energy needs.

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