

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4275

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2026

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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”.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 Congress makes the following findings:

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

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

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

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

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

23 (6) Since February 2022, Hungary increased
24 its dependence on Russian energy by an estimated
25 30 percent, providing approximately \$6,700,000,000

1 in crude oil revenue to the Russian Federation be-
2 tween February 24, 2022, and December 31, 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (10) Hungary has shown no sign of reducing its
24 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) direct, approve, or take steps to block,
14 delay, or otherwise obstruct additional financial or
15 security assistance to Ukraine through bilateral, Eu-
16 ropean Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization,
17 or other multilateral 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

the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of an individual described in subsection (b) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INADMISSIBILITY OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—

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

- (i) inadmissible to the United States;
- (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and
- (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISA REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An alien described 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

1 (B) for a continuous period of not less
2 than 180 days, ceased any official action, to
3 block, delay, or otherwise obstruct additional fi-
4 nancial or security assistance to Ukraine
5 through bilateral, European Union, North At-
6 lantic Treaty Organization, or other multilat-
7 eral mechanisms.

8 (2) COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLI-
9 GATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

10 Sanctions under this section shall not apply with re-
11 spect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien
12 into the United States is necessary—

13 (A) to comply with United States obliga-
14 tions under—

15 (i) the Agreement between the United
16 Nations and the United States of America
17 regarding the Headquarters of the United
18 Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,
19 1947, and entered into force November 21,
20 1947;

21 (ii) the Convention on Consular Rela-
22 tions, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and
23 entered into force March 19, 1967; or

24 (iii) any other international agree-
25 ment; 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 (e) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-
12 tion of sanctions under this section for a period not to
13 exceed 180 days if the President determines and certifies
14 to the appropriate committees of Congress that—

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

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

20 (f) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on
21 the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Sec-
22 retary of State submits to the appropriate committees of
23 Congress a written certification that the Government of
24 Hungary has—

1 (1) formally adopted and begun implementation
 2 of a public, time-bound plan to end the dependency
 3 of the country on oil and natural gas imports from
 4 the Russian Federation that includes a binding com-
 5 mitment to achieve substantial diversification of oil
 6 and natural gas imports by not later than one year
 7 from the date of such termination; and

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

14 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY
 16 ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The
 17 terms “admission”, “admitted”, “alien”, and “law-
 18 fully admitted for permanent residence” have the
 19 meanings given those terms in section 101 of the
 20 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

21 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
 22 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
 23 gress” means—

24 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
 25 the Senate; and

1 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
2 the House of Representatives.

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

5 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
6 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
7 United States;

8 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
9 the United States or any jurisdiction within the
10 United States, including a foreign branch of
11 such an entity; or

12 (C) any person located in the United
13 States.

14 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FACILI-**
15 **TATION OF HUNGARIAN PURCHASES OF RUS-**
16 **SIAN OIL AND GAS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
18 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
19 Treasury and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit
20 to the committees specified in subsection (c) a report that
21 provides the justification for any United States Govern-
22 ment facilitation of purchases of Russian Federation oil
23 and national gas by the Government of Hungary or any
24 related entities.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection

2 (a) shall include—

3 (1) a detailed description of—

4 (A) any license or comfort letter issued on
5 or after October 22, 2025, to, or for the benefit
6 of, the Government of Hungary or Hungarian
7 individuals or entities that were related to oil,
8 petroleum products, or natural gas of Russian
9 Federation origin, including with respect to
10 transactions involving energy companies or fi-
11 nancial institutions designated for the imposi-
12 tion of sanctions;

13 (B) the period of effectiveness of any li-
14 cense or comfort letter described in subpara-
15 graph (A);

16 (C) any foreign policy guidance by the De-
17 partment of State conveyed to the Department
18 of the Treasury related to the issuance of any
19 license or comfort letter described in subpara-
20 graph (A); and

21 (D) any information communicated to the
22 Government of Hungary regarding the potential
23 renewal or extension any license or comfort let-
24 ter described in subparagraph (A); and

1 (2) an estimate of the total quantity of oil and
2 gas of Russian Federation origin purchased by the
3 Government of Hungary or Hungarian individuals or
4 entities, by volume and dollar value, since the effective date of any license or comfort letter described
5 in paragraph (1)(A).

6 (c) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees specified in this subsection are—

7 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
8 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

9 (2) the Committee of Foreign Affairs and the
10 Committee on Financial Services of the House of
11 Representatives.

12 (d) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
13 shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

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