

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7701

To require the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person that knowingly participates in the construction, maintenance, or repair of a tunnel or bridge that connects the Russian mainland with the Crimean peninsula.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 15, 2024

Mr. MEEKS (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) 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 require the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person that knowingly participates in the construction, maintenance, or repair of a tunnel or bridge that connects the Russian mainland with the Crimean peninsula.

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 “No Russian Tunnel
5 to Crimea Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) In February and March 2014, the Russian
4 Federation invaded the Crimean peninsula and an-
5 nexed Crimea, international recognized as Ukrainian
6 territory.

7 (2) Following its annexation of Crimea, the
8 Russian Federation constructed the Kerch Strait
9 Bridge to connect the Russian mainland with the
10 Crimean peninsula.

11 (3) On February 24, 2022, the Government of
12 the Russian Federation, led by Vladimir Putin,
13 launched an unprovoked, full-scale invasion of
14 Ukraine.

15 (4) The Russian Federation has used Crimea as
16 an integral part of its full scale invasion of Ukraine,
17 including to house Russian troops, store ammunition
18 and weapons, and host the Black Sea Fleet.

19 (5) In October 2023, it was publicly reported
20 that Russian and Chinese business officials met and
21 exchanged emails to discuss building a tunnel from
22 the Russian mainland to illegally occupied Crimea.

23 **SEC. 3. SANCTIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanc-
25 tions described in subsection (b) with respect to any for-
26 eign person that knowingly participates in the construc-

1 tion, maintenance, or repair of a tunnel or bridge that con-
2 nects the Russian mainland with the Crimean peninsula.

3 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
4 scribed in this subsection are the following:

5 (1) ASSET BLOCKING.—Notwithstanding the re-
6 quirements of section 202 of the International
7 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701),
8 the President may exercise of all powers granted to
9 the President by that Act to the extent necessary to
10 block and prohibit all transactions in all property
11 and interests in property of the foreign person if
12 such property and interests in property are in the
13 United States, come within the United States, or are
14 or come within the possession or control of a United
15 States person.

16 (2) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—An alien who the Sec-
18 retary of State or the Secretary of Homeland
19 Security (or a designee of one of such Secre-
20 taries) knows, or has reason to believe, is de-
21 scribed in subsection (a) is—

22 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

23 (ii) ineligible for a visa or other docu-
24 mentation to enter the United States; and

1 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
2 or paroled into the United States or to re-
3 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
4 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
5 seq.).

6 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

7 (i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing con-
8 sular officer, the Secretary of State, or the
9 Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-
10 ignee of one of such Secretaries) shall, in
11 accordance with section 221(i) of the Im-
12 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
13 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry
14 documentation issued to an alien described
15 in subparagraph (A) regardless of when
16 the visa or other entry documentation is
17 issued.

18 (ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A rev-
19 ocation under clause (i)—

20 (I) shall take effect immediately;

21 and

22 (II) shall automatically cancel
23 any other valid visa or entry docu-
24 mentation that is in the alien's pos-
25 session.

1 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—

2 (1) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-
3 NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under sub-
4 section (b)(2) shall not apply with respect to the ad-
5 mission of an alien if admitting or paroling the alien
6 into the United States is necessary to permit the
7 United States to comply with the Agreement regard-
8 ing the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed
9 at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into
10 force November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
11 tions and the United States, or other applicable
12 international obligations.

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

17 (A) the sale of agricultural commodities,
18 food, medicine, or medical devices;

19 (B) the provision of humanitarian assist-
20 ance;

21 (C) financial transactions relating to hu-
22 manitarian assistance; or

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

1 (3) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE, LAW EN-
2 FORCEMENT, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACTIVI-
3 TIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply
4 to any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or
5 national security activities of the United States.

6 (d) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—In any judicial re-
7 view of a determination made under this section, if the
8 determination was based on classified information (as de-
9 fined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Proce-
10 dures Act) such information may be submitted to the re-
11 viewing court ex parte and in camera. This subsection does
12 not confer or imply any right to judicial review.

13 (e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

14 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-
15 ercise all authorities provided to the President under
16 sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-
17 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and
18 1704) to carry out this section.

19 (2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in
20 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
21 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
22 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates,
23 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
24 violation of regulations promulgated to carry out
25 this section to the same extent that such penalties

1 apply to a person that commits an unlawful act de-
2 scribed in section 206(a) of that Act.

3 (f) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-
4 tion of sanctions imposed with respect to a foreign person
5 under this section if the President certifies to the appro-
6 priate congressional committees not later than 15 days be-
7 fore such waiver is to take effect that the waiver is impor-
8 tant to the national security interests of the United States.

9 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

10 (1) the term “appropriate congressional com-
11 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
12 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
13 Foreign Relations of the Senate;

14 (2) the term “foreign person” means an indi-
15 vidual or entity that is not a United States person;
16 and

17 (3) the term “United States person” means—

18 (A) a United States citizen;

19 (B) a permanent resident alien of the
20 United States;

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

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(D) a person in the United States.

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