

LISA C. McCLAIN
10TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR



WASHINGTON OFFICE
218 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2106

DISTRICT OFFICE
6303 26 MILE ROAD
SUITE 120
WASHINGTON MI 48094
PHONE: (586) 697-9300

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We write to you today to voice our concerns over the recent reports of the ever-growing ties between the Russian Federation and the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria.

As you know, Russia is Algeria’s largest military arms supplier. Last year alone, Algeria finalized an arms purchase with Russia that totaled over \$7 billion. In this deal, Algeria agreed to purchase advanced Russian fighter aircraft¹, including Sukhoi 57. Previously, Russia had not agreed to sell this particular aircraft to any other nation until now. This military transfer has made Algeria the 3rd largest recipient² of Russian arms in the world.

In 2017, Congress passed the *Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act* (CAATSA.) This legislation directs the President of the United States to impose sanctions on individuals who knowingly, “engages in a significant transaction with a person that is part of, or operates for or on behalf of, the defense or intelligence sectors of the Government of the Russian Federation.”³ The President has delegated sanctions authority to the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury. This recent Algeria-Russia arms purchase would clearly be categorized as “a significant transaction” under CAATSA. Yet, no sanctions available to you have been crafted by the State Department.

¹ Sierra, Jose Antonio. “Senator Marco Rubio Calls for Sanctions against Algeria over Russian Arms Purchases.” *Atlatayar*, 17 Sept. 2022

² Mathisen, Ruben Berge. “Arms Transfers: U.S. and Russia's Biggest Trading Partners.” *Visual Capitalist*, 9 May 2022

³ 22 U.S.C. 9525- Imposition of sanctions with respect to persons engaging in transactions with the intelligence or defense sectors of the Government of the Russian Federation

As the war in Ukraine continues, Russia is in desperate need of funds to continue its war effort. Russia's attempt to punish the European Union's involvement in the conflict by blocking sales of natural gas to European countries has left President Vladimir Putin with few income streams into Russian government coffers. It is likely Russia will continue to push for additional arms sales. It is critical that President Biden and his administration prepare to sanction those who attempt to fund the Russian government, and its war machine, through the purchase of military equipment.

Therefore, we request you begin to immediately implement significant sanctions on those in the Algerian government who were involved in the purchase of Russian arms. The United States needs to send a clear message to the world that the support for Vladimir Putin, and his regime's barbaric war efforts will not be tolerated.

Sincerely,



Lisa McClain
Member of Congress



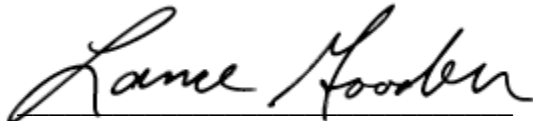
Marcy Kaptur
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Robert J. Wittman
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Joe Wilson
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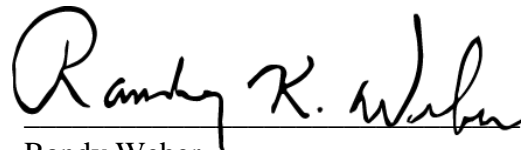
Lance Gooden
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Jim Costa
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Van Taylor
Member of Congress



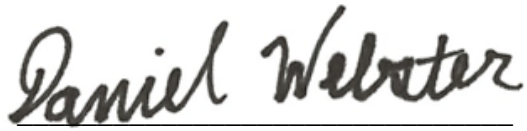
Randy Weber
Member of Congress



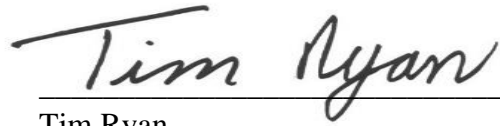
Buddy Carter
Member of Congress



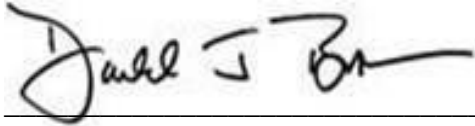
John Curtis
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
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Tim Ryan
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Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
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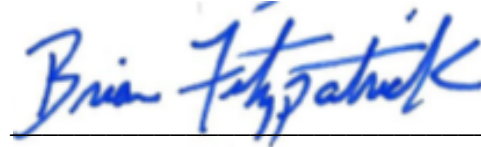
Mario Diaz-Balart
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Guy Reschenthaler
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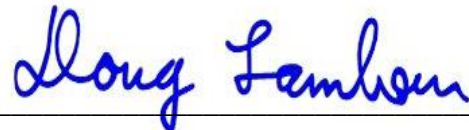
Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



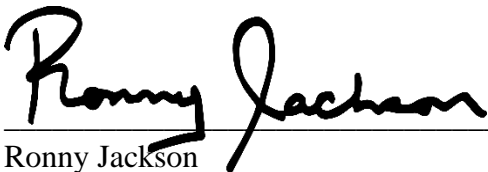
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



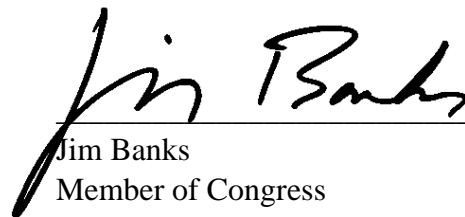
Austin Scott
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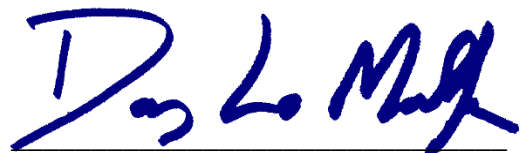
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