



TO: Republican Study Committee members
FROM: RSC Policy Staff
DATE: February 24, 2022
RE: Responding to Putin

RSC Memo: Responding to Putin’s Lawless Invasion

For years, Putin has been waiting for an opportune moment to invade Ukraine. He ultimately chose last night. Biden must surprise Putin by imposing devastating sanctions on Russia, sending lethal aid to Ukraine and, crucially, Biden must protect American consumers from the cost of Putin’s invasion.

Here’s a detailed list of steps Biden must take to expose Putin’s miscalculation and prove America’s strength.

- 1. Immediate, Crushing Sanctions**—President Biden said today’s sanctions were designed to “*maximize economic impact*,” but they do not meet the needs of the moment.

Biden must cripple Russia’s wartime economy and send a message to [Dictator Xi](#) and the rest of the world: If you launch a full-scale, illegal invasion, America will make it *as costly as possible*.

- Biden must further sanction Russia’s entire oil and gas sector, which accounts for over a third of Russia’s economy and which [earned record profits](#) in 2021.
 - Biden must impose the full list of sanctions in RSC’s [Putin Accountability Act](#), including:
 - Answer Ukraine’s call to expel Russia from the SWIFT banking system.
 - Sanction Putin, his family, his oligarchs, and other senior Russian officials
 - Determine whether the persons listed on the “[Navalny List](#)” meet the criteria for sanctions.
 - Sanction ALL Russian state-owned banks, including its Central bank.
 - Designate Russia as a State Sponsor of Terrorism
- 2. Bolster Ukraine’s Defense**— Ukrainians must fight to defend Ukraine, *not* U.S. troops. President Biden must bolster Ukraine’s defense capability with lethal aid, just like [President Trump did in 2019](#).

The Obama administration [failed to send](#) Ukraine lethal aid in 2014, and President Biden has hesitated in sending lethal aid to Ukraine before the invasion, in some instances even [slowing it down](#).

- Biden must work with allies to [send](#) additional Stinger air-defense missiles which can shoot down Russian jets.
- Biden must send further Javelin anti-tank missiles.

- 3. Prioritize Americans**—President Biden pledged to “do everything in my power to limit the pain Americans are feeling at the gas pump.” Good. Unfortunately, to date, Biden has worked to increase gas prices. Biden must alleviate harm to American consumers by reversing his war on domestic energy production and returning America to energy independence.
- It’s true that gas prices are sure to rise because of Putin’s invasion, however, Biden’s war on American energy producers has ALREADY raised gas prices 90 cents this year. Biden must end his arbitrary inflation of American energy prices by:
 - Reinstating the Keystone XL permit.
 - Reversing his moratorium on new drilling on federal lands.
 - Roughly ¼ of energy production [occurs](#) on federal lands.
 - Reversing EPA’s [ethanol tax increase](#).
 - Reversing EPA’s WOTUS rule.
 - Withdrawing from the anti-competitive Paris Climate Agreement.
 - America must regain control over its energy needs—Biden cannot rely on OPEC+ to lower gas prices, Saudi Arabia has denied Biden’s request to increase oil production and is [adhering](#) to an agreement with Russia to limit its energy exports.
 - Congress must pass Rep Pfluger and Chairman Banks’ [Midland over Moscow Act](#) which directs the president to develop an energy strategy to counter Russia.