LINDSEY O. GRAHAM SANCTIONING RUSSIA ACT OF 2026

The bipartisan Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia Act of 2026 is designed to deprive Vladimir Putin of the revenue financing Russia's war against Ukraine by imposing mandatory sanctions on Russia's political leadership, financial institutions, energy sector, and sanctions evasion networks, while using targeted tariffs to pressure the world's largest purchasers of Russian energy to reduce their dependence on Moscow.

Legislation Overview

Imposes sanctions targeting Russia's war machine: The bill imposes mandatory sanctions on Vladimir Putin, senior Russian political and military leaders, oligarchs, state-owned enterprises, and foreign companies supporting Russia's defense industrial base. It sanctions Russian financial institutions, including the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, Sberbank, and Gazprombank. It also sanctions Russia's largest state energy projects—including Yamal LNG, Arctic LNG 1, 2, and 3, and future Russian Arctic energy projects—along with their controlling owners and executives.

Clamps down on Russia's shadow fleet: The bill would impose sanctions on the Russian Shadow Fleet and any foreign person or vessel that is used by the Russian government for sanctions evasion.

Strengthens financial and export restrictions: The bill prohibits U.S. persons from purchasing Russian sovereign debt, making new investments in the Russian Federation or its energy sector, transferring funds to or from the Russian government or for the benefit of Russian officials, and exporting, re-exporting, or transferring U.S.-origin energy or energy products to or within Russia.

Enforces targeted duties on top purchasers of Russian oil and gas: The legislation imposes tariffs on imports from countries that are the world's top 5 purchasers of Russian crude oil or natural gas or are among the top 5 facilitators of Russian oil sanctions evasion. The bill exempts countries whose Russian natural gas imports account for less than 15 percent of Russia's total natural gas exports and that are taking significant steps to reduce those imports. The bill calls for USTR to reassess the top 5 purchasers every 180 days and can adjust tariff rates based on changes in purchasing behavior.

Provides for presidential waiver authority: The bill contains a waiver, consistent with other mandatory sanctions bills, allowing the President to waive sanctions, restrictions, or duties upon a justification and certification to Congress that the waiver is in the national interest of the United States.

Overview of Key Changes

(1) Refines tariff authority from a blanket 500 percent tariff to tariffs on the top five purchasers of Russian crude oil and natural gas of up to 100 percent, with an exception for countries importing less than 15 percent of Russia's natural gas exports and taking significant steps to reduce those imports.

(2) Adds new authority to impose tariffs of up 100 percent on the top five countries facilitating Russian oil sanctions evasion.

(3) Updates the waiver to require a national interest certification consistent with other sanctions laws.

(4) Incorporates the bipartisan SHADOW Fleet Sanctions Act targeting Russia's sanctions-evasion fleet.

(5) Includes the bipartisan STOP Russia-China Act targeting Chinese support for Russia's defense industrial base.