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January 27, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President:

As one of the Congressional Representatives to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, I believe a strong and U.S.-led effort in the UN represents one piece of the full range of tools the U.S. government should have already implemented to address the crisis Russia has created in Eastern Europe. It is clear that Russia is in violation of international law, and the United States must demand Russia reaffirm its commitment to agreements, to which it is a signatory, including the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Charter of Paris, and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum. All available options at the UN, including in the Security Council and the General Assembly, must be pursued to hold Russia accountable in the world's largest intergovernmental organization.

Any new military aggression against Ukraine would represent a further violation of Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, of which Russia is an original signatory as the successor state to the Soviet Union. There are already two Security Council resolutions touching on Russian aggression in Ukraine from 2014, Resolution 2166 concerning the downing of flight MH17 over Ukraine, and Resolution 2202 supporting the Minsk Agreements of 2014, which were designed to deescalate conflict in eastern Ukraine at that time. I believe that these efforts should be updated and expanded upon, as Russian actions thus far have violated the Minsk Agreements, and perhaps by extension Resolution 2202.

The General Assembly should continue the trend it started in 2014 when it condemned the annexation of Crimea and take additional and immediate actions now on resolutions condemning Russia's most recent aggression against Ukraine in order to avoid a Security Council veto.

Immediate action should also be taken in the Security Council. While Russia can veto any resolution in the Security Council, it cannot stop consideration and votes on draft resolutions. Russia also may not be able to stop Ukraine from being added to the Council's agenda and the Council from discussing the situation, as the agenda can be set by an affirmative vote of any nine Security Council members.

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As a member of Congress, I have met directly with members of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada, and their message was clear. They want to be rid of Russia's malign influence and they want to continue to have the same self-determination and freedom that Americans enjoy every day. That is why it is critical we as a nation take every available option to counter Russia's aggression, especially at the UN, and ensure Ukraine's continued self-determination. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. French Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H".

French Hill  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations