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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

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September 10, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent:

We are writing to express our strong concern regarding the Trump Administration's invitation of Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov to the recent G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Asheville, North Carolina. From February 2022 to January 2025, the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) frequently joined other G20 partners in imposing and implementing sanctions in response to Russia's full-scale war on Ukraine. Mr. Siluanov—who has been subject to U.S. sanctions since April 2022—is a trusted advisor to Vladimir Putin who has likely helped the Kremlin exploit the Trump Administration's 18-month halt in U.S. counter-evasion sanctions under the Russia program. Inviting him to participate in the U.S.-hosted G20 meeting at the same time Russia is attacking civilian targets and killing children on a daily basis is a gift to Putin's regime. It only exacerbates the global perception that the United States no longer intends to impose sanctions on companies and individuals who are supporting the Kremlin's war machine and profiting as they weaken our leverage to achieve a just peace.

Congress has spoken clearly and unambiguously on this matter. Section 5704 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (P.L. 117-263) establishes an explicit U.S. policy directive: "to seek to exclude government officials of the Russian Federation, to the maximum extent practicable, from participation in meetings, proceedings, and other activities" of the key international financial governance bodies, naming the G20 specifically. This statutory mandate was enacted precisely to prevent the normalization of international economic relations with Russia while it continues to prosecute a brutal and illegal war against Ukraine.

Widespread reporting indicates that a number of key European allies were troubled and confused by Mr. Siluanov's presence at the recent meetings.¹ We now rely on these countries to impose sanctions to maintain pressure and counter sanctions evasion given that the United States has ceased our own regular sanctions designations. Meanwhile, the Administration's invitation has shown Russia that the United States will welcome it back into key international fora—despite Putin's ongoing war of aggression. The Administration's decision to include a sanctioned Russian official in a high-level forum like the G20 is particularly concerning in light of President Trump's repeated calls to readmit Russia to the G7, the group of likeminded democracies that led coordinated sanctions on Russia.²

This invitation signals a lack of resolve to restart basic implementation of U.S. sanctions, concerns our allies, and conveys tolerance for egregious Russian malfeasance against which Congress has specifically legislated. To assist the Senate in fulfilling its constitutional oversight responsibilities, please provide detailed responses to the following requests by October 10, 2026:

1. Section 5704(b) of the FY 2023 NDAA requires the Secretary of the Treasury to take “all necessary steps” to advance the policy outlined in the statute. What specific actions did Treasury take to comply with section 5704 prior to and during the G20 ministerial?
2. Section 5704 requires coordinated action across U.S. delegations. What formal steps, if any, has Treasury taken to consult and coordinate with the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding Russian participation in activities of the international financial bodies listed in section 5704(a)?
3. Do you agree that Treasury has alternative diplomatic channels to engage and communicate with senior Russian government officials outside of hosting them at G20 meetings?
4. Did Treasury perform any analysis of whether the participation of senior Russian government officials in the G20 ministerial was in the national interest of the United

¹ See, e.g., The New York Times, “Europe Protests as U.S. Invites Russian Minister to G20 Finance Meeting,” August 31, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/31/business/g20-finance-iran-bessent.html>; Politico, “Trump welcomes Russia back to the G20. Europe isn't having it.” August 31, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/08/31/bessent-welcomes-russia-back-to-g20-as-europe-pushes-back-01058296>; NBC News, “Allies bristle as sanctioned Russian finance minister attends U.S.-hosted G20 summit,” September 1, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/russia-finance-minister-g20-bessent-meeting-ukraine-war-europe-rcna595474>.

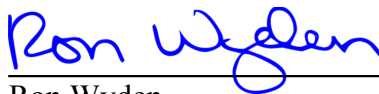
² Politico, “Russia should rejoin G7, Trump says,” February 13, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/13/trump-russia-rejoin-g7-00204169>; The Guardian, “Donald Trump repeats call for Russia to be readmitted at G7 summit in Canada,” June 16, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/16/donald-trump-repeats-call-for-russia-to-be-readmitted-at-g7-summit-in-canada>.

States prior to the Administration's invitation? If so, please provide copies of any memoranda or written analysis produced.

5. Please confirm that President Trump did not seek a waiver of section 5704 pursuant to the statutory process under section 5704(d).
6. What outreach or advance notice did Treasury provide to key international counterparts regarding Russia's participation prior to the G20 ministerial?
7. What specific protocols, if any, has Treasury established to limit Russian participation during the ministerial meetings, proceedings, side events, and other activities of the G20 or other international financial bodies?
8. Following the recent G20 ministerial, you asserted publicly that "the finance minister who I met with is unsanctioned."³ Please confirm that Mr. Siluanov remains sanctioned and listed on the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List, regardless of any temporary authorizations Treasury may have granted to enable his participation at the G20 ministerial.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. We look forward to receiving your written response.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance



Elizabeth Warren
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs

³ France 24, "G20 backs final statement despite Russia tensions, China dissent," September 2, 2026, <https://www.france24.com/en/americas/20260901-g20-backs-final-statement-despite-russia-tensions-china-dissent>.