NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
Representative David Cook (R-8)
Representative Brian Fernandez (D-4)
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Wednesday, March 9, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives Proclaims Support for Ban on Russian Oil Imports & Urges Domestic Energy Production Increase

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Members of the Arizona House of Representatives today expressed support for the U.S. ban on the importation of Russian oil and called for increasing domestic energy production. A bipartisan legislative proclamation, sponsored by Republican State Representative David Cook and Democratic State Representative Brian Fernandez, was read aloud on the House floor expressing support for these policies in light of Russia’s invasion of the free and democratic country of Ukraine.

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, a massive military assault was launched by the Russian government on the sovereign democratic nation of Ukraine and the continuing assault has been met by the strong resistance of the Ukrainian military joined by armed civilians; and

Whereas, Russian attacks on nonmilitary, residential areas of Ukraine’s cities have forced the evacuation of millions of civilians to neighboring countries and the United States and other nations around the globe have issued strong condemnations of the Russian government’s hostile action and have responded to Ukraine’s appeal for both military and humanitarian aid; and

Whereas, the United States, in coordination with its allies and partners, have imposed sanctions targeting the core infrastructure of the Russian financial system. These actions have inflicted unprecedented diplomatic and economic costs on Russia and have isolated it from the global financial system and international community; and

Whereas, in 2020, Russia was the world’s third largest producer of petroleum and other liquid fuels and the second largest producer of dry natural gas; and in 2021, the United States imported an average of 670,000 barrels of oil and petroleum products, with a high of 848,000 barrels per day in June 2021. Imports increased by 24% in 2021 over 2020; and

Whereas, the United States has also imported Russian liquified natural gas and coal, despite having some of the largest reserves domestically and this import strategy puts American national security at risk and supports Vladimir Putin’s ability to stay in power; and
Whereas, legislation has been introduced in the United States Congress to prohibit the importation of Russian crude oil, petroleum, petroleum products, liquefied natural gas and coal and enacting such legislation would show the commitment of the United States to support the valiant efforts of the Ukrainian people and Americans should not be forced to help finance Russia’s heinous atrocities and unprovoked aggression; and

Whereas, banning the importation of Russian energy products would eradicate a portion of a key source of cash flow and help prevent Vladimir Putin from circumventing the punishing sanctions that the United States and its allies have imposed to pressure Russia to end this terrible war; and

Whereas, the United States must revisit its domestic energy policies and the people of Arizona encourage and support all types of energy generation and rely on such generation to support its infrastructure and its manufacturing industries, to benefit outdoor recreation, lifestyle and employment, and to fuel this country’s economy and tax base and the best response to rising gas prices is increasing domestic energy production from all sources, not buying from dictators who are actively invading sovereign nations.

Therefore, Representative David Cook and Representative Brian Fernandez, invite the members of the Arizona House of Representatives to join with them in their support of the ban on Russian oil, gas and liquefied natural gas imports imposed by President Joe Biden and call on the President of the United States and the United States Congress to revisit and revitalize domestic energy production.

A copy of the official proclamation is attached.

David Cook is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 8, which includes areas of Pinal and Gila Counties. Follow him on Twitter at @RepDavidCook.

Brian Fernandez is a Democratic member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 4, which includes portions of Yuma, Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal Counties. Follow him on Twitter at @BrianSFernandez.

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State of Arizona

Legislative Proclamation

SUPPORT OF THE BOYCOTT ON RUSSIAN OIL IMPORTS AND INCREASING DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, a massive military assault was launched by the Russian government on the sovereign democratic nation of Ukraine and the continuing assault has been met by the strong resistance of the Ukrainian military joined by armed civilians; and

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Whereas, the United States must revisit its domestic energy policies and the people of Arizona encourage and support all types of energy generation and rely on such generation to support its infrastructure and its manufacturing industries, to benefit outdoor recreation, lifestyle and employment, and to fuel this country’s economy and tax base and the best response to rising gas prices is increasing domestic energy production from all sources, not buying from dictators who are actively invading sovereign nations.

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Dated this 9th day of March 2022

Representative David Cook
Legislative District 8

Representative Brian Fernandez
Legislative District 4