

“Severing Putin’s Immense Gains from Oil Transfers” (*SPIGOT Act*) of 2022

Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.)

In 2021, the Russian Federation became the number two exporter of crude oil to the United States. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the United States private sector imported 245,194,000 barrels of oil from Russia in 2021, which provided an estimated \$17.5 billion in revenue to Russia.

Over the years there have been several bipartisan efforts to sanction Russian individuals with ties to strongman President Vladimir Putin for human rights abuses and corruption. Many of these individuals have direct ties to Russia’s lucrative and corrupt energy sector. However, there is no consolidated United States government-led investigation or reporting that analyzes the linkages between energy sector profits, corruption, and human rights abuses in Russia. By weaning the United States off its continued reliance on the products of this corrupt Russian oil regime, the United States can deny Russia upwards of \$20 billion in revenue in 2022, ensuring American consumers aren’t subsidizing the costs of Putin’s war of illegal aggression against Ukraine or human rights abuses in Russia.

Senator Markey’s *SPIGOT Act* seeks to conclusively lift the veil on the Russian fossil fuel industry’s corrupt dealings while requiring the United States to eliminate carbon-polluting imports from Russia, moving the U.S. towards a truly energy-independent future.

Senator Markey’s *Spigot Act*:

- Prohibits all imports of Russian crude oil and petroleum products into the United States immediately, in close coordination with appropriate congressional committees, subject to a Presidential national security waiver;
- Requires a report identifying the entities involved in the import of Russian crude oil and petroleum products into the United States, their links to Vladimir Putin and other U.S. sanctioned individuals, an analysis of the risks these relationships pose in driving human rights abuses, and a comprehensive strategy to prioritize carbon free energy as an alternative to Russian crude oil and petroleum; and
- Requires the President to impose sanctions on individuals and entities under current legal authorities based on the findings of the report.