



STATE OF ARKANSAS

ASA HUTCHINSON  
GOVERNOR

February 28, 2022

Dear Cabinet Secretaries:

On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation, at the explicit direction of Mr. Vladimir Putin, launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This unprovoked attack on a sovereign and democratic nation is contrary to our state and national values.

In the first four days of the invasion, we have seen reports of attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, as well as plans for the assassination of Ukrainian leaders. These actions are not only illegal but are wholly unacceptable in a world governed by laws.

The people of Ukraine are proving to the world that they are willing to do whatever is necessary to defend their country, their families, and their liberties from Russian aggression. History will judge the free world on how it responds to the present hostilities. We must do everything in our power to ensure that Mr. Putin and his enablers pay for their actions.

I am heartened by the rapid response from the international community. From personal sanctions on Mr. Putin and other leaders, to the removal of Russian banks from the SWIFT international banking system, the world is holding these aggressors responsible. These actions are important; however, it is necessary to continue to apply economic and political pressure in response to Russia's continued escalation.

Although Arkansas' economic ties with Russia are limited, I want to make sure that we as a state are not indirectly supporting Russian aggression through its economy. I am transparent and unequivocal in my condemnation of these actions.

Therefore, I am instructing that all Cabinet Secretaries begin an internal review of their respective departments to determine whether any contracts or agreements between Arkansas, the Russian Federation, or other Russian entities exist. This information is to be reported to me as soon as the information is compiled.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Asa Hutchinson".

Asa Hutchinson