

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2016

The Honorable Claude Juncker  
President  
European Commission  
Brussels, Belgium

Dear President Juncker:

Through a variety of dialogues, high level meetings, and joint initiatives, the United States and the European Union continue to strengthen collaboration and enhance cooperation between Americans and Europeans on energy issues, including investing in energy infrastructure, promoting energy efficiency, and improving energy security. We write today to express our sincere appreciation for the ongoing partnership between the U.S. and EU on energy security and access, but also to express our concern over the proposed “Nord Stream 2” pipeline that would carry natural gas from Russia to Germany.

The European Commission has a crucial role to play in considering the merits of this proposal, which we believe would undermine both the Energy Union project and the goals of the EU’s Third Energy Package. Specifically, we believe that the full force of EU legal structures, including the provisions of the Third Energy Package, applies to the entire pipeline route including its effect on the maritime areas of EU Baltic Sea littoral states as well as German and Danish territorial seas.

From our perspective, the pipeline would be a step backwards in the diversification of Europe’s energy sources, suppliers, and routes by increasing reliance on Russian gas transported via the Baltic Sea. It also may limit the completion of critical regional gas interconnector projects which have the potential to bolster European energy security in support of a robust and dynamic internal energy market, integrated with global pipeline and LNG markets.

We are also concerned that the project would seriously undermine the economy of Ukraine and other gas transit countries in Central Europe by allowing Russia the option to reduce or even cut off the pipelines that transit their countries. Given the significant resources invested by the U.S. and EU in stabilizing Ukraine’s economy and reducing its vulnerability to Russia, this proposal is concerning to us.

We share the EU's concerns that the intent of Russia's state-owned Gazprom is to make the EU more dependent on Russia for its energy needs and to use this dependence to achieve geostrategic outcomes, including the continued destabilization of Ukraine. As you well know, Gazprom is an organ of the Russian state and Europe has suffered the most under its abuse of the energy markets in various countries, imposing territorial restricting, pursuing unfair and arbitrary pricing policies and extorting commitments from host governments. Gazprom subsidiaries are sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department for their role in promoting Russia's foreign policy, including the invasion and occupation of Ukraine. Given Russia's continued efforts to undermine peace and security in Europe, including through its use of energy as a point of political leverage, we would urge consideration of the impacts on these European partners if the Nord Stream 2 proposal were to move forward.

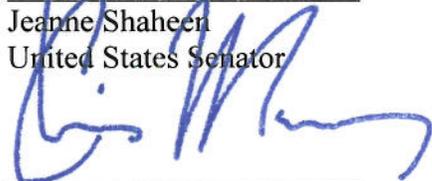
We appreciate your willingness to consider our concerns as the Commission contemplates its own position on this matter. We would also reiterate our commitment to continued cooperation on efforts that will afford significant financial opportunities to both the United States and Europe while also diversifying and further securing our respective energy futures.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



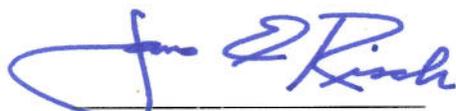
Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator



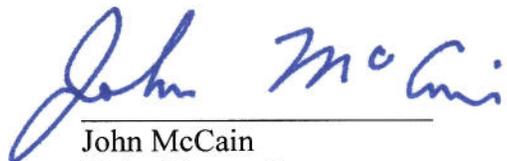
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



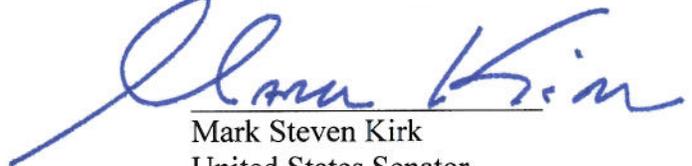
Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



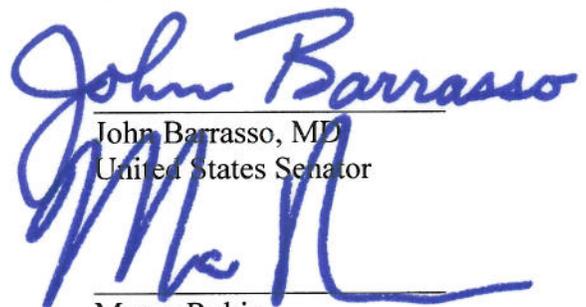
James E. Risch  
United States Senator



John McCain  
United States Senator

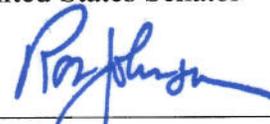


Mark Steven Kirk  
United States Senator



John Barrasso, MD  
United States Senator

Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Ron Johnson  
United States Senator