

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

October 28, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

I write to urge you to impose sanctions under Section 224 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) on five Russian nationals recently indicted by the Justice Department for cybercrime offenses. At the time of the indictment, Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers warned that "No country has weaponized its cyber capabilities as maliciously or irresponsibly as Russia, wantonly causing unprecedented damage to pursue small tactical advantages and to satisfy fits of spite." The threat of malign Russian cyber activity is real, and the Treasury Department must send a message of zero tolerance to the Russian government to deter future attacks.

In the October 15 indictment, six individuals face charges related to the use of destructive malware to gain unauthorized access to victims' computers "for the strategic benefit of Russia." Their targets included "thousands of U.S. and international corporations, organizations, and political campaigns and parties; foreign governments; entities and corporations associated with the 2018 Winter Olympic Games; and their respective employees." The charged individuals were officers working for Military Unit 74455 of the Russian intelligence Main Directorate, also known as the GRU.

I urge you to act swiftly to impose sanctions under Section 224(a)(1) of CAATSA on the following individuals charged on October 15<sup>[1]</sup>:

- 1) YURIY SERGEYEVICH ANDRIENKO
- 2) SERGEY VLADIMIROVICH DETISTOV
- 3) PAVEL VALERYEVICH FROLOV
- 4) ARTEM VALERYEVICH OCHICHENKO
- 5) PETR NIKOLAYEVICH PLISKIN

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<sup>[1]</sup> The sixth Russian national listed in the indictment, ANATOLIY SERGEYEVICH KOVALEV, was sanctioned under the CAATSA 224 authority in December 2018 for hacking the website of a state board of elections to steal voter information and for hacking into computers of a U.S. company that supplied software used to verify voter registration information for the 2016 election.

The Russian government's ongoing cyberattacks targeting U.S. individuals, companies, and institutions remain a significant threat to our country's security. The United States must counter this threat with all of the tools at our disposal, including CAATSA 224 sanctions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Menendez." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Menendez  
Ranking Member