

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli
Office of the New York State Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli:

Last week, the Russian Federation commenced an unprovoked and illegal attack against the sovereign nation of Ukraine and its people. Freedom-loving people around the world have been shocked and horrified by Russia's war, and in New York, home to the largest Ukrainian population in the United States, we stand united in expressing our condemnation of Vladimir Putin's invasion.

As such, we are writing to request that you immediately begin the process of divesting the Common Retirement Fund from any and all companies that do business in or with the Russian Federation. We commend your statement prohibiting new investments in Russian companies and reviewing the Fund's existing assets invested in Russian companies. These are welcome steps, but we believe more can be done.

We believe that New York State must stand firmly and unequivocally with Ukraine and its people and must pursue all avenues at our disposal to send a clear message to Putin that his invasion of Ukraine will have serious economic consequences. As the sole trustee of the third-largest public pension fund in the United States, it is within your power to send this message and condemn the actions of the Russian Federation. We appreciate the actions you are already planning to take, and urge you to take further action on behalf of the more than one million members who hold assets in the New York State and Local Retirement System by moving as quickly as possible to divest all funds from any and all companies that do business in or with the Russian Federation. Doing so will put the weight of the Common Fund's financial strength behind the international effort to cut-off financing to the Kremlin and isolate and degrade Russia's economy until the war is ended and Ukraine's sovereignty is restored.

We would greatly appreciate hearing from you in the coming weeks with an update on this request.

Sincerely,



Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick
38th Senate District




Senator Roxanne J. Persaud
19th Senate District



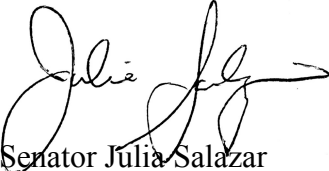
Senator George M. Borrello
57th Senate District



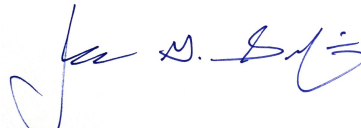
Senator Mike Martucci
40th Senate District



Senator Sean Ryan
60th Senate District



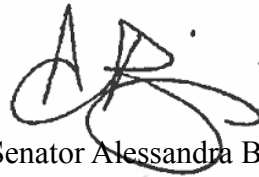
Senator Julia Salazar
18th Senate District



Senator James Skoufis
39th Senate District



Senator Jeremy Cooney
56th Senate District



Senator Alessandra Biaggi
34th Senate District



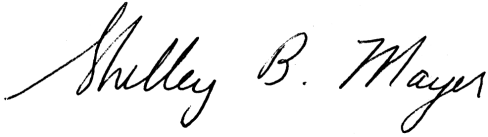
Senator Simcha Felder
17th Senate District



Senator John Mannion
50th Senate District



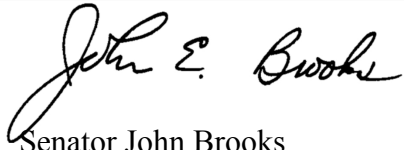
Senator Brad Hoylman
27th Senate District



Senator Shelley Mayer
37th Senate District



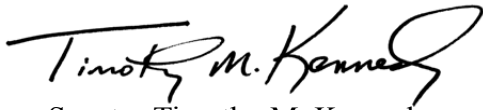
Senator Liz Krueger
28th Senate District



Senator John Brooks
8th Senate District



Senator Kevin Thomas
6th Senate District



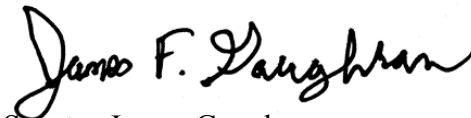
Senator Timothy M. Kennedy
63rd Senate District



Senator Michelle Hinchey
46th Senate District



Senator Jessica Ramos
3th Senate District



Senator James Gaughran
5th Senate District



Senator Rachel May
53rd Senate District



Senator Samra Brouk
55th Senate District



Senator Gustavo Rivera
33rd Senate District



Senator John Liu
11th Senate District



Senator Kevin Parker
21st Senate District



Senator Anna M. Kaplan
7th Senate District



Senator Brian Kavanagh
26th Senate District



Senator Toby Ann Stavisky
16th Senate District



Senator Robert Jackson
31st Senate District



Senator Leroy Comrie
14th Senate District



Senator Mario R. Mattera
2nd Senate District