

**No. R-254. Joint resolution relating to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.**

(J.R.H.18)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, on Thursday, February 24, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded the independent nation of Ukraine, which has a democratically elected government, stating that he wanted the de-Nazification of the country—despite Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy himself being Jewish—triggering the largest military confrontation on the European continent since World War II, and

Whereas, President Putin has warned of dire historic consequences if any nation attempts to interfere in the Russian military operations in Ukraine, and he has placed the Russian nuclear arsenal on alert status, and

Whereas, deep national pride and a fierce anger at President Putin’s vicious attack upon Ukraine’s sovereignty has united Ukrainians, and many Ukrainian civilians have volunteered to defend their country, and

Whereas, under the inspiring leadership of President Zelenskyy, Ukrainians’ astonishment at Russia’s virulent invasion was shared by the rest of world; Russia’s increasingly severe military tactics have sparked enormous international condemnation; and over two million Ukrainians have fled their homeland, and

Whereas, demonstrations in Russia against President Putin’s attacks on Ukraine have resulted in the detention of thousands of antiwar protesters, and

Whereas, State Treasurer Beth Pearce and the Vermont Pension Investment Committee are liquidating State pension funds in Russian investments, and

Whereas, on March 3, 2022, Governor Philip B. Scott issued Executive Order No. 02-22, “Solidarity with the Ukrainian People,” which expressed strong dismay at the decision of President Putin to invade Ukraine, and directed that the State of Vermont limit business, investment, and contractual relationships associated with products either produced or sourced in Russia and terminated authorization for Vermont’s sister-state relationship with the Russian Republic of Karelia, and

Whereas, the General Assembly adopted 1990 Acts and Resolves No. R-157, “Joint resolution relating to strengthening ties with the peoples of Karelia within the Soviet Union,” and, while the peoples of the Republic of Karelia are not responsible for the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as a statement of the General Assembly’s concern over maintaining an official relationship with a Russian republic, this joint resolution warrants repeal, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine and expresses strong support for Ukraine’s fight for independence, the heroic leadership of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the resoluteness of the Ukrainian people, the courage of the Russian antiwar protesters, and the actions of Governor Philip B. Scott in response to Russian aggression, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly expresses its strong support for the United States' continued backing of Ukraine's heroic quest to remain a free and independent nation, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly repeals 1990 Acts and Resolves No. R-157, "Joint resolution relating to strengthening ties with the peoples of Karelia within the Soviet Union," and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the embassies of Russia and Ukraine in Washington, D.C., to Governor Philip B. Scott, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.