

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1477

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

To require a threat assessment and strategy to counter Russian influence in Venezuela, an assessment of foreign acquisition of CITGO assets in the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Russian-Venezuelan
3 Threat Mitigation Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Russian Federation’s increased pres-
7 ence in the Western Hemisphere is of concern to the
8 United States and our allies in the region.

9 (2) In December 2018, the Russian Federation
10 sent two Tu–160 nuclear-capable bombers to Ven-
11 ezuela for joint exercises with the Venezuelan mili-
12 tary. The Tu–160 can carry conventional or nuclear-
13 tipped cruise missiles with an estimated maximum
14 range of around 3,000 miles.

15 (3) Russian and Venezuelan forces took part in
16 a joint 10-hour exercise across the Caribbean in De-
17 cember 2018 with the Tu–160 nuclear-capable
18 bombers.

19 (4) Nicolas Maduro and his regime have turned
20 to the Russian Federation, one of its strongest polit-
21 ical allies, for financial support during its current
22 economic crisis and to counter international support
23 for Juan Guaido.

24 (5) In January 2018, Russia sent contractors
25 linked to the Wagner Group to provide security for
26 Nicolas Maduro.

1 (6) Nicolas Maduro secured loans from the
2 Russian Federation to be repaid through future oil
3 exports, but fell behind on those payments in 2017.
4 News reports in December 2018 suggest that Rus-
5 sian State oil company Rosneft has lent Venezuelan
6 state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA)
7 \$6.5 billion partly as prepayment for crude oil, \$3.1
8 billion of which remained outstanding as of the end
9 of September 2018.

10 (7) In 2016, PdVSA secured a \$1.5 billion loan
11 from Rosneft, and PdVSA used 49.9 percent of its
12 shares in United States-based and Venezuelan-
13 owned company CITGO as collateral. A Venezuelan
14 default could lead to potential Russian ownership of
15 United States energy infrastructure.

16 (8) At the conclusion of a 3-day visit to Moscow
17 in December 2018, Maduro announced \$6 billion
18 worth of Russian investment pledges focused on the
19 oil and mining sectors as well as the export of
20 600,000 tons of Russian wheat to Venezuela to
21 cover its 2019 needs.

22 **SEC. 3. THREAT ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY TO COUNTER**
23 **RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN VENEZUELA.**

24 (a) **THREAT ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than 120 days
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional
2 committees an assessment on Russian-Venezuelan security
3 cooperation and the potential threat such cooperation
4 poses to the United States and countries in the Western
5 Hemisphere.

6 (b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 30 days after the
7 submission of the threat assessment required under sub-
8 section (a), the Secretary of State shall submit to the ap-
9 propriate congressional committees a strategy to counter
10 threats identified in such assessment from Russian-Ven-
11 ezuelan cooperation.

12 (c) FORM.—The threat assessment required under
13 subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but
14 may include a classified annex.

15 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-
16 priate congressional committees” means the Committee on
17 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
18 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

19 **SEC. 4. ASSESSMENT OF FOREIGN ACQUISITION OF CITGO**
20 **ASSETS IN THE UNITED STATES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
23 transmit to the appropriate congressional committees an
24 assessment of the national security risks posed by poten-

1 tial Russian acquisition of CITGO’s United States energy
2 infrastructure holdings.

3 (b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-
4 priate congressional committees” means the Committee on
5 Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and
6 the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
8 Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on
9 Banking of the Senate and the Committee on Financial
10 Services of the House of Representatives and the Com-
11 mittee on Banking of the Senate.

12 **SEC. 5. ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PA-**
13 **ROLE.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—An alien who the Secretary of
15 State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-
16 ignee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to
17 believe, is an alien who is acting or has acted on behalf
18 of the Russian Government in direct support of the Ven-
19 ezuelan security forces is—

20 (1) inadmissible to the United States;

21 (2) ineligible to receive a visa or other docu-
22 mentation to enter the United States; and

23 (3) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or pa-
24 roled into the United States or to receive any other

1 benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act
2 (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

3 (b) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer,
5 the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Home-
6 land Security (or a designee of one of such Secre-
7 taries) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the
8 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)),
9 revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued
10 to an alien described in subsection (a) regardless of
11 when the visa or other entry documentation is
12 issued.

13 (2) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation
14 under paragraph (1) shall—

15 (A) take effect immediately; and

16 (B) automatically cancel any other valid
17 visa or entry documentation that is in the
18 alien's possession.

19 (c) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS
20 HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT OR FOR NATIONAL SECU-
21 RITY REASONS.—

22 (1) INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—This sec-
23 tion shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien
24 into the United States is necessary to permit the
25 United States to comply with—

1 (A) the Agreement regarding the Head-
2 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake
3 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force
4 November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
5 tions and the United States; or

6 (B) other applicable international obliga-
7 tions of the United States.

8 (2) NATIONAL SECURITY.—The President may
9 waive the application of this section to an alien if
10 the President—

11 (A) determines that such a waiver is in the
12 national interest of the United States; and

13 (B) transmits to the Committee on For-
14 eign Affairs of the House of Representatives
15 and the Committee on Foreign Relations a no-
16 tice of and justification for such waiver.

17 (d) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on
18 the earlier of—

19 (1) the date that is one year after the date of
20 the enactment of this Act; or

21 (2) the date on which the President certifies to
22 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
23 Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Re-
24 lations of the Senate that the Government of Ven-
25 ezuela has returned to a democratic form of govern-

