



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Mike McGuire
California State Senate, 32nd District
1021 O. St, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1328 (McGuire) – Prohibited investments and contracts: Russia and Belarus.
City of Beverly Hills – SUPPORT

Dear Senator McGuire,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you of our SUPPORT position for your measure SB 1328, which would divest state public funds from Russia and Belarus following the unprovoked war against Ukraine.

On February 24, 2022, armed military forces from the Russian Federation with the support and participation of the government of Belarus launched a massive, unprovoked invasion on the sovereign nation of Ukraine. As Ukrainian authorities point out, the aggressor countries' invasion was not the beginning but rather the continuation of a war that Russia has waged against Ukraine since 2014 when it occupied parts of the Donbas region and the Crimea. Given Russian President Putin's actions, the City of Beverly Hills strongly believes there is no reason for the State of California to invest in and support Putin, his oligarchs, and the Russian economy.

SB 1328 would prohibit all public pension boards subject to the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act, not just CalPERS and CalSTRS, from investing public employee retirement funds in a company with business operations in Russia or Belarus. This measure would also ask private companies based in California to divest their investments in the Russian economy.

California is the world's fifth largest economy and enhanced action taken by the State can help the people of Ukraine by putting additional financial pressure on the Russian economy. It is believed that California has Russian investments approaching \$2 billion, primarily in its pension funds.

Additionally, on March 15, 2022, the City of Beverly Hills adopted Resolution No. 22-13391, condemning Russian's invasion of Ukraine. One of the actions codified in this Resolution by the City Council called for City staff to actively lobby for CalPERS to divest from any fund possessing Russian assets and terminating contracts, if any, with Russian firms. Your SB 1328 aligns with this direction.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills is pleased to SUPPORT your SB 1328. Thank you for authoring this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 26th District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Assemblymember, 50th District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange