

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3107

To require the continuation in effect of sanctions imposed with respect to Belarus, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2015

Mr. PEARCE (for himself, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. STEWART, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, and Mrs. ROBY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the continuation in effect of sanctions imposed with respect to Belarus, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Belarus Democracy
5 and Sanctions Enforcement Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The authoritarian regime of Alexander
9 Lukashenko continues to abuse the human rights

1 and impede the democratic aspirations of the people
2 of Belarus, including by imprisoning leaders, re-
3 stricting free media, and denying the freedom of as-
4 sembly.

5 (2) On June 16, 2006, the United States Gov-
6 ernment imposed sanctions with respect to entities
7 in Belarus for the human rights abuses, public cor-
8 ruption, and measures to undermine democratic
9 processes undertaken by President Lukashenko and
10 his associates.

11 (3) President Lukashenko was personally
12 named on the list of specially designated nationals
13 and blocked persons maintained by the Office of
14 Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the
15 Treasury.

16 (4) On November 13, 2007, pursuant to Execu-
17 tive Order 13405 (71 Fed. Reg. 35485), the Office
18 of Foreign Assets Control added the Belarusian
19 State Concern for Oil and Chemistry (commonly re-
20 ferred to as “Belneftekhim”) to the list of specially
21 designated nationals and blocked persons.

22 (5) On February 2014, the Lukashenko regime
23 spun the Joint Stock Company Belaruskali and its
24 trading arm, the Joint Stock Company Belarusian
25 Potash Company, out from under the Belneftekhim

1 umbrella, with press reports at the time citing offi-
2 cials of the Government of Belarus as affirming that
3 this legal maneuver was intended specifically to
4 evade sanctions imposed by the United States.

5 (6) The Country Reports on Human Rights
6 Practices for 2013 of the Department of State stat-
7 ed that, in Belarus, “[a]uthorities at all levels oper-
8 ated with impunity and failed to take steps to pros-
9 ecute or punish officials in the government or secu-
10 rity forces who committed human rights abuses”.

11 (7) The Government of Belarus plans to hold
12 presidential elections in October 2015, which observ-
13 ers fear may not be free and may result in pro-
14 longing President Lukashenko’s authoritarian rule.

15 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

16 It is the policy of the United States—

17 (1) to maintain all sanctions imposed with re-
18 spect to Belarus in effect on the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act until the authorities of Belarus re-
20 spect the human rights and democratic aspirations
21 of the people of Belarus; and

22 (2) to crack down on all attempts by Belarusian
23 entities tied to the Government of Belarus to evade
24 sanctions imposed by the United States.

1 **SEC. 4. CONTINUATION IN EFFECT OF SANCTIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sanctions imposed by the
3 United States with respect to Belarus in effect on the date
4 of enactment of this Act shall remain in effect until the
5 President certifies to the appropriate congressional com-
6 mittees that the Government of Belarus has met the con-
7 ditions described in section 6(b) of the Belarus Democracy
8 Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–347; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note).

9 (b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
10 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
11 gressional committees” means—

12 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
13 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
14 fairs of the Senate; and

15 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
16 Committee on Financial Services of the House of
17 Representatives.

18 **SEC. 5. INCLUSION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANY**
19 **BELARUSKALI AND JOINT STOCK COMPANY**
20 **BELARUSIAN POTASH COMPANY ON THE LIST**
21 **OF SPECIALLY DESIGNATED NATIONALS AND**
22 **BLOCKED PERSONS.**

23 Not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act, the President shall include the Joint
25 Stock Company Belaruskali and the Joint Stock Company
26 Belarusian Potash Company on the list of specially des-

- 1 designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the
- 2 Office of Foreign Assets Control.

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