

Statement of Representative Ann Wagner  
House Natural Resources Subcommittee on  
National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands  
Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4878, H.R. 6589,  
H.R. 6805, H.R. 7002, H.R. 7075, and H.R. 7218  
April 28, 2022

As we hold this hearing today, Russian forces continue their unconscionable assault on Ukraine, targeting countless civilians and forcing millions of innocent people to flee their homes.

In response to this unprovoked and abhorrent invasion, cities throughout the United States and the world have illuminated historic landmarks with the colors of the Ukrainian flag.

From the Eiffel Tower to the Empire State Building, the illumination of these internationally beloved landmarks sends the message that communities around the globe stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

The Gateway Arch is a symbol of pride for the people of St. Louis and the State of Missouri. As the defining structure of the St. Louis skyline, the Arch can be seen for miles throughout the region.

H.R. 7002, the *Gateway Solidarity Act*, would direct the Department of the Interior to illuminate the Gateway Arch in St. Louis with the colors of the Ukrainian flag.

This legislation has the unanimous support of the entire Missouri delegation as well as the National Park Service, and our Senate colleagues have indicated that this bill can be immediately passed once it is sent across to their chamber.

This bill should be expeditiously moved through this committee, the House, the Senate, and sent to the President's desk.