

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1477
OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL OF NEW YORK**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

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.

1 (4) Nicolas Maduro and his regime have turned
2 to the Russian Federation, one of its strongest polit-
3 ical allies, for financial support during its current
4 economic crisis and to counter international support
5 for Juan Guaido.

6 (5) In January 2018, Russia sent contractors
7 linked to the Wagner Group to provide security for
8 Nicolas Maduro.

9 (6) Nicolas Maduro secured loans from the
10 Russian Federation to be repaid through future oil
11 exports, but fell behind on those payments in 2017.
12 News reports in December 2018 suggest that Rus-
13 sian State oil company Rosneft has lent Venezuelan
14 state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA)
15 \$6.5 billion partly as prepayment for crude oil, \$3.1
16 billion of which remained outstanding as of the end
17 of September 2018.

18 (6) In 2016, PdVSA secured a \$1.5 billion loan
19 from Rosneft, and PdVSA used 49.9 percent of its
20 shares in United States-based and Venezuelan-
21 owned company CITGO as collateral. A Venezuelan
22 default could lead to potential Russian ownership of
23 United States energy infrastructure.

24 (7) At the conclusion of a 3-day visit to Moscow
25 in December 2018, Maduro announced \$6 billion

1 worth of Russian investment pledges focused on the
2 oil and mining sectors as well as the export of
3 600,000 tons of Russian wheat to Venezuela to
4 cover its 2019 needs.

5 **SEC. 3. THREAT ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY TO COUNTER**
6 **RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN VENEZUELA.**

7 (a) **THREAT ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than 120 days
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
9 of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional
10 committees an assessment on Russian-Venezuelan security
11 cooperation and the potential threat such cooperation
12 poses to the United States and countries in the Western
13 Hemisphere.

14 (b) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 30 days after the
15 submission of the threat assessment required under sub-
16 section (a), the Secretary of State shall submit to the ap-
17 propriate congressional committees a strategy to counter
18 threats identified in such assessment from Russian-Ven-
19 ezuelan cooperation.

20 (c) **FORM.**—The threat assessment required under
21 subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but
22 may include a classified annex.

23 (d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “appro-
24 priate congressional committees” means the Committee on

1 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
2 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

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

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
7 transmit to the appropriate congressional committees an
8 assessment of the national security risks posed by poten-
9 tial Russian acquisition of CITGO’s United States energy
10 infrastructure holdings.

11 (b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-
12 priate congressional committees” means the Committee on
13 Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and
14 the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
16 Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on
17 Banking of the Senate and the Committee on Financial
18 Services of the House of Representatives and the Com-
19 mittee on Banking of the Senate.

20 **SEC. 5. ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PA-**
21 **ROLE.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—An alien who the Secretary of
23 State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-
24 ignee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to
25 believe, is an alien who is acting or has acted on behalf

1 of the Russian Government in direct support of the Ven-
2 ezuelan security forces is—

3 (1) inadmissible to the United States;

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

6 (3) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or pa-
7 roled into the United States or to receive any other
8 benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act
9 (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

10 (b) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

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

20 (2) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation
21 under paragraph (1) shall—

22 (A) take effect immediately; and

23 (B) automatically cancel any other valid
24 visa or entry documentation that is in the
25 alien's possession.

1 (c) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS
2 HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT OR FOR NATIONAL SECUR-
3 RITY REASONS.—

4 (1) INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—This sec-
5 tion shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien
6 into the United States is necessary to permit the
7 United States to comply with—

8 (A) the Agreement regarding the Head-
9 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake
10 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force
11 November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
12 tions and the United States; or

13 (B) other applicable international obliga-
14 tions of the United States.

15 (2) NATIONAL SECURITY.—The President may
16 waive the application of this section to an alien if
17 the President—

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

20 (B) transmits to the Committee on For-
21 eign Affairs of the House of Representatives
22 and the Committee on Foreign Relations a no-
23 tice of and justification for such waiver.

24 (d) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on
25 the earlier of—

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

3 (2) the date on which the President certifies to
4 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
5 Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Re-
6 lations of the Senate that the Government of Ven-
7 ezuela has returned to a democratic form of govern-
8 ment with respect for the essential elements of rep-
9 resentative democracy as set forth in Article 3 of the
10 Inter-American Democratic Charter.

11 (e) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “Ven-
12 ezuelan security forces” includes the following:

13 (1) The Bolivarian National Armed Forces, in-
14 cluding the Bolivarian National Guard.

15 (2) The Bolivarian National Intelligence Serv-
16 ice.

17 (3) The Bolivarian National Police.

18 (4) The Bureau for Scientific, Criminal and Fo-
19 rensic Investigations of the Ministry of Interior, Jus-
20 tice, and Peace.

