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# Uniqueness

## JV/Magnitsky Will Pass - US

### JV/Magnitsky Will Pass

#### Jackson-Vanik/Magnitsky bill will pass now – has momentum and timetable for passing

Rian News, 7-18-2012, “U.S. Senate Committee Approves Jackson-Vanik, Magnitsky Bill,” “http://en.ria.ru/world/20120718/174669701.html”

The United States Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday approved a bill combining a repeal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and a measure aiming to punish Russian officials involved in the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky. "By enacting PNTR [permanent normal trade relations] together with the Magnitsky bill, we are replacing Jackson-Vanik with legislation that addresses the corruption and accountability issues that Russia confronts today," Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus said. The new bill is a response to the demands of a majority of lawmakers for a review of legislation affecting trade and human rights issues, including some laws affecting trade with Russia. The proposal to add the Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act to the PNTR legislation “will help fight human rights abuses in Russia,” Baucus said. Russia will formally be a member of the WTO next month, he said, and “that is our deadline for passing PNTR.” “There is no time to waste; America risks being left behind.” “If we miss that deadline, American farmers, ranchers, workers and businesses will lose out to the other 154 members of the WTO that already have PNTR with Russia. American workers will lose the jobs created to China, Canada and Europe when Russia, the world’s seventh largest economy, joins the WTO and opens its market to the world,” Baucus said.

#### Baucus pushing and has senators on board

RIA News, 7-18-2012, “US Senate Committee Ties Jackson-Vanik to Magnitsky Bill,” “http://en.ria.ru/world/20120718/174667628.html”

"Committee Chairman Baucus released a modified mark of his bill to establish permanent normal trade relations with Russia and remove Russia from the 1974 Jackson-Vanik amendment," a source in Washington told RIA Novosti. "The mark includes the Magnitsky Act, as passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee." The text of the joint bill also has “small alterations,” on electronic trade, the source added. The introduction of the combined bill to the committee is a technicality, as Baucus presented his draft bill to the Senate on July 12, and on July 14 a source in the committee administration confirmed to RIA Novosti that it would be this joint bill which would be put to the vote on Wednesday. Several senators have already expressed strong support for the bill. The new bill is a response to the demands of a majority of lawmakers for a review of legislation affecting trade and human rights issues, including some laws affecting trade with Russia. The Senate began studying the issue in mid-March and also amendments from Maryland Senator Ben Cardin, including proposals for visa sanctions against Russians allegedly involved in the death of Sergei Magnitsky, a tax lawyer working for the Hermitage Capital investment company, who died in custody in Russia in 2009.

### JV/Magnitsky Will Pass

#### Will pass – WTO

Vicki Needham, report for the Hill, 7-21-2012, “Senators, Obama administration aim for compromise on Russia trade”, http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/1005-trade/234173-senators-obama- administration-aim-for-compromise-on-russia-trade)

Senate Finance Committee members said Thursday are backing a plan to link legislation repealing Jackson-Vanik, which allow for grant normal permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with Moscow, with a human rights bill that would punish Russian officials involved with the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who died in police custody. Obama administration officials, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk and Deputy Secretary of State William Burns, told the Finance panel on Thursday that they prefer separate tracks for the two measures but will continue to work with lawmakers toward a compromise to pass a measure before the August recess. Regardless of current differences, lawmakers and Obama administration officials agree that PNTR needs to be granted before Russia joins the World Trade Organization (WTO) in August. Burns acknowledged Thursday that there is a "constructive dialogue" continuing with lawmakers and that the administration's concerns are being considered. He opted to reserve a final opinion on how the administration will react until a bill emerges from the Senate. House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp (R-Mich.), who held a Wednesday hearing, is siding with the Obama administration in pressing for a "clean" PNTR bill.

#### Will pass now

The Hill, 7-24-2012, Business Groups See Progress in Moving Russia Trade Bill,” The Hill, 6/24/12, http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/1005-trade/234439-business-groups-see-progress-on-russia-trade-bill)//SR

Business groups say they feel encouraged that Congress will approve Russian trade legislation before the August recess. The groups said the Obama administration will have to work quickly to bridge their differences to pass the legislation, but the groups expressed confidence it would get done. “A lot of progress was made this week,” said David Thomas, vice president for trade policy, with the Business Roundtable. Lawmakers on Capitol Hill along with trade officials are trying to balance the passage of permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) for Russia with a push by a broad coalition of lawmakers to link the measure with human rights legislation. The latter bill would withhold visas for Russian officials accused of human rights violations. Hearings at the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees this week revealed the gap between lawmakers and the White House, which opposes the linkage and finds itself in an unlikely partnership with Capitol Hill Republicans. U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk and House Republicans are calling for lawmakers to pass a clean repeal of the Jackson-Vanik provision, which would grant Russia permanent normal trade relations.

### JV/Magnitsky Will Pass

#### JV has momentum, attached to Magnitsky Bill, and Baucus is pushing

Mike Godfrey, Staff Writer, 7-24-2012, “Washington Prepares To Normalize Trade Relations With Russia,” Tax-News, “2http://www.tax-news.com/news/Washington\_Prepares\_To\_Normalize\_Trade\_Relations\_With\_Russia\_\_\_\_56462.html”

The United States Senate Finance Committee has approved a bill that would establish permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with Russia by removing the nation from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. The Jackson-Vanik amendment in the United States was introduced to prohibit most favoured nation status for non-market economies originally on the basis of human right concerns. The United States has retained the law but has each year since 1992 granted a waiver to Russia. The removal of Russia from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment will be tied to approval of the Magnitsky Bill, which introduces sanctions, such as visa denials and asset freezes on those believed to have perpetrated human rights offences in Russia. An updated version of the Bill, approved by the Senate Finance Committee last month, includes additional provisions to address corruption issues in Russia, and to ensure that the US Administration closely monitors and enforces Russian compliance with its World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations. "By enacting PNTR together with the Magnitsky bill, we are replacing Jackson-Vanik with legislation that addresses the corruption and accountability issues that Russia confronts today," Max Baucus (D - Montana), the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said.

#### Will pass – trade lobbyists

The Hill, 7-24-2012, Business Groups See Progress in Moving Russia Trade Bill,” The Hill, 6/24/12, http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/1005-trade/234439-business-groups-see-progress-on-russia-trade-bill)//SR

The United States Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday, July 18 approved a bill combining a repeal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and a measure aiming to punish Russian officials involved in the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, RIA Novosti reported. "By enacting PNTR [permanent normal trade relations] together with the Magnitsky bill, we are replacing Jackson-Vanik with legislation that addresses the corruption and accountability issues that Russia confronts today," Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus said. The new bill is a response to the demands of a majority of lawmakers for a review of legislation affecting trade and human rights issues, including some laws affecting trade with Russia. The proposal to add the Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act to the PNTR legislation “will help fight human rights abuses in Russia,” Baucus said. Russia will formally be a member of the WTO next month, he said, and “that is our deadline for passing PNTR.” “There is no time to waste; America risks being left behind. If we miss that deadline, American farmers, ranchers, workers and businesses will lose out to the other 154 members of the WTO that already have PNTR with Russia. American workers will lose the jobs created to China, Canada and Europe when Russia, the world’s seventh largest economy, joins the WTO and opens its market to the world,” Baucus said. The Senate began studying the issue in mid-March and also amendments from Maryland Senator Ben Cardin, including proposals for visa sanctions against Russians allegedly involved in the death of Sergei Magnitsky, a tax lawyer working for the Hermitage Capital investment company, who died in custody in Russia in 2009.

### JV/Magnitsky Will Pass

#### Jackson Vanik has bipart support and will be voted on by August

Vicki Needham, Staff Writer, 7-18-2012, “Senate Finance unanimously approves bill to normalize trade with Russia,” The Hill, “http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/1005-trade/238715-senate-finance-unanimously-approves-russia-trade-bill-“

But the unanimous vote on the Finance Committee might be enough to sway Senate leadership to consider the measure. During the past several weeks, business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Business Roundtable have ramped up their push for passage of a trade bill before lawmakers leave town for the summer break. “This is a huge message to the House and is the momentum burst the business community has been hoping for,” Christopher Wenk, senior director of international policy at the Chamber, told The Hill. “This is the one issue in Washington with bipartisan support in the House and the Senate that can be signed by the president; there’s no other issue out there. This is a fantastic outcome.” Despite some discord, Wenk said he’s confident Congress can get a bill to President Obama before the August recess.

#### JV has bipart and will be passed by August

Vicki Allen and Peter Cooney, 7-19-2012, “House lawmakers reach deal on Russia trade, rights bill,” 1450 WHTC, http://whtc.com/news/articles/2012/jul/19/house-lawmakers-reach-deal-on-russia-trade-rights-bill/

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The top Republican and Democrat on the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee said on Thursday they reached a deal to move forward on Russian trade legislation, including human rights provisions opposed by Moscow. "I am pleased that we were able to gain bipartisan support for this important legislation that supports U.S. jobs and exports, and I look forward to marking it up next week," Committee Chairman Dave Camp, a Republican, said in a statement with Democratic Representative Sander Levin. Business groups, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, want Congress to pass the trade legislation before its August recess to make sure U.S. companies share in the benefits of Russia's upcoming entry in the World Trade Organization. Russia is the largest economy still outside the WTO and its entry is expected to help double U.S. exports to that country to about $19 billion annually over the next five years. Representatives Kevin Brady and Jim McDermott, the top Republican and Democrat on the Ways and Means trade subcommittee, said they were joining Camp and Levin on the bill to grant "permanent normal trade relations," or PNTR, with Russia. U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk said more exports to Russia would mean more American jobs. "We look forward to working with Congress to put a final bill on the president's desk as soon as possible," Kirk said in a statement.

## JV/Magnitsky Will Pass Russia

### JV/Magnitsky Will Pass - Russia

#### Russian parliament has already signed – just waiting for Putin

Chicago Tribune, 7-18-2012, “2Russia backs WTO entry, U.S. friction persists,” http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-trade-russia-votebre86h0lz-20120718,0,4273690.story

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia's upper house of parliament voted on Wednesday to ratify entry into the World Trade Organization, and now only the signature of President Vladimir Putin is needed to complete the country's 18-year bid to join the trade rules club. Russia will finally become the WTO's 156th member 30 days after it informs the trade body that Putin has signed off on December's deal, under which Moscow would cut import tariffs and open up sectors of its economy to foreign investment.

## JV-Magnitsky Connected

### Yes – JV-Magnitsky Connected

#### The finance committee has attached them

RIA News, 7-18-2012, “US Senate Committee Ties Jackson-Vanik to Magnitsky Bill,” “http://en.ria.ru/world/20120718/174667628.html”

The United States Congress finance committee has linked a draft bill on repealing the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and a change in Russia’s status to a free trade nation to the draft "Magnitsky bill,” the committee said on Wednesday. A Senate vote on the joint law will take place in the next few hours.

#### JV and Magnaski will be combined in the Senate

Vicki Allen and Peter Cooney, 7-19-2012, “House lawmakers reach deal on Russia trade, rights bill,” 1450 WHTC, http://whtc.com/news/articles/2012/jul/19/house-lawmakers-reach-deal-on-russia-trade-rights-bill/

SENATE BILL: The bill is similar to one approved unanimously on Wednesday by the Senate Finance Committee and which contains a number of provisions to put pressure on the U.S. Trade Representative's Office to ensure Russia honors its WTO commitments, they said. "The bill we are introducing today includes important additional measures relating to the enforcement of key provisions, ranging from the protection of intellectual property rights, to barriers to U.S. exports, and Russia's compliance with its WTO commitments," Levin said. It would exclude certain human rights provisions in the Finance Committee package because that is outside the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means Committee. But the four lawmakers said they would push for the "Magnitsky bill" to be added by House leaders to the PNTR package before it goes to the floor for a vote. "As a long-time supporter of the Magnitsky legislation, I am advocating that it be paired with PNTR before a House vote," Camp said. Russia is expected to join the World Trade Organization in August, 18 years after it first asked for membership, putting pressure on Congress to lift a Cold War-provision known as the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which is inconsistent with WTO rules. If Congress does not act to terminate the provision and grant PNTR, Russia could deny U.S. exporters some of the market-opening concessions it made to join the WTO, and the United States would not be able to challenge those actions through the WTO's dispute settlement system. Concern about Russia's commitment to human rights, democracy and the rule of law is propelling the Magnitsky bill, named after a Russian anti-corruption lawyer who died in 2009 after a year in Russian jails. It would bar Russia officials guilty of human rights violations from traveling to the United States and freeze assets they hold in U.S. banks. The White House had pushed for a bill free of human rights provisions to terminate Jackson-Vanik and establish "permanent normal trade relations" with Moscow. But it appears resigned to the bill passed by the Senate Finance Committee, which included the Magnitsky provisions. "Passage of this bill through the House and full Senate will enable the president to extend Permanent Normal Trade Relations to Russia and allow American businesses, ranchers, farmers, and workers receive the full benefit of Russia's WTO commitment," White House spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said in a statement.

## Obama Pushing

### Yes – Obama Pushing

#### Will pass by August – Obama pushing

Vikki Needham, Reporter for The Hill, 6-18-2012, “Obama Presses for Improved Trade Ties with Russia”, The Hill, http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/1005-trade/233311-obama-presses-for-improved-trade-ties-with-russia

President Obama urged Congress on Monday to repeal a human-rights provision that will open up trade for U.S. businesses to Russia. Obama met Monday with Russian President Vladimir Putin and emphasized the need to improve and expand trade ties between the two nations at the Group of 20 summit in Los Cabos, Mexico. "In particular, we discussed the need to expand trade and commercial ties between the United States and Russia, which are still far below where they should be," Obama said during a press conference following the meeting. "And I emphasized my priority of having Congress repeal Jackson-Vanik, provide permanent trade relations status to Russia so that American businesses can take advantage of the extraordinary opportunities now that Russia is a member of the WTO," he said. Russia has scheduled a July 4 vote on its World Trade Organization membership, meaning Congress will have 30 days to repeal the nearly 40-year-old Jackson-Vanik provision that will pave the way for permanent normal trade relations (PNTR). Neither leader mentioned in their remarks, a human rights bill under consideration by Congress that could be tied to PNTR legislation.

#### Obama pushing

Kathy Lally, Staff Writer, 6-7-2012, “Congress advances bill to pressure Russia on human rights,” Washington Post, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/congress-advances-bill-to-pressure-russia-on-human-rights/2012/06/07/gJQA44uXLV_story.html>

The dispute has boiled over into Russia’s accession to the World Trade Organization, which is expected to become complete this summer. (The Russian parliament on Thursday set a ratification vote for July 4.) Membership has been a hard-fought victory for the White House, aimed at making Russia a more integral part of the world community and subject to the rules of international organizations. But in order for U.S. businesses to take full advantage of Russia’s new status, the United States must grant Russia permanent normal trade relations and repeal the Jackson-Vanik amendment as it applies to Moscow. The Cold War-era amendment was meant to pressure the Soviet Union to allow the emigration of Jews, and there appears to be near-universal agreement that its time has passed and that it should be lifted. But ardent supporters of the Magnitsky act, such as Sen. [Benjamin L. Cardin](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/accountability-for-sergei-magnitskys-killers/2011/08/05/gIQA4XeI3I_story.html)(D-Md.), are intent on replacing Jackson-Vanik with Magnitsky, despite pressure from American businesses. Speaking to the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia on Thursday, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk reiterated the importance of removing Russia from Jackson-Vanik without tying it to passage of the Magnitsky bill. “Our priority is for the Congress to lift Jackson-Vanik in a clean bill which deals only with the issue relevant to our ability to maintain our competitiveness,” Kirk said.

## Baucus Pushing

### Yes – Baucus Pushing

#### Baucus is pushing

RIA News, 7-18-2012, “US Senate Committee Ties Jackson-Vanik to Magnitsky Bill,” “http://en.ria.ru/world/20120718/174667628.html”

"Committee Chairman Baucus released a modified mark of his bill to establish permanent normal trade relations with Russia and remove Russia from the 1974 Jackson-Vanik amendment," a source in Washington told RIA Novosti. "The mark includes the Magnitsky Act, as passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee."

#### Baucus bushing – farm lobby and deadline

Mike Godfrey, Staff Writer, 7-24-2012, “Washington Prepares To Normalize Trade Relations With Russia,” Tax-News, “2http://www.tax-news.com/news/Washington\_Prepares\_To\_Normalize\_Trade\_Relations\_With\_Russia\_\_\_\_56462.html”

Welcoming the Committee's adoption of the Bill, Baucus said the removal of Russia from the Jackson-Vanik amendment, "will enable US businesses to create jobs here at home by capitalizing on Russia's growing market. The legislation supports and creates thousands of US jobs across every sector of the American economy, including manufacturing, agriculture and services, by helping double US exports to Russia within five years." In approving the bill, Baucus said a major step had been made "All this boils down to one thing: jobs. Russia will formally be a member of the WTO next month, so that is Congress’s deadline for passing PNTR. There is no time to waste - America risks being left behind. If Congress misses that deadline, American farmers, ranchers, workers and businesses will lose out to the other 154 members of the WTO that already have PNTR with Russia. American workers will lose the jobs created to China, Canada and Europe when Russia, the world’s seventh largest economy, joins the WTO and opens its market to the world. This is an opportunity to create jobs we can’t pass up.”

## Political Capital Key To JV-Magnitsky

### Political Capital Key

#### Political capital is key to Jackson Vanik

Bruce Stokes, 1-26-2011, “An Agenda, If You Can Keep It,” National Journal, “http://nationaljournal.com.proxy.library.emory.edu/member/daily/an-agenda-if-you-can-keep-it-20110126?mrefid=site\_search”

After years of relative quiescence, Congress actually has a trade agenda in 2011: possible votes on the Korea, Colombia, and Panama trade agreements, and on Russia’s application to join the World Trade Organization. Whether, when, how, and which elements of this agenda will be completed will largely depend on political calculations in the White House and on Capitol Hill. “The first question,” observed William Reinsch, president of the National Foreign Trade Council, “is, how many of these fights does the administration want to have?” At the top of the list will be the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, which President Obama made his own by arm-wrestling the South Koreans for fixes to benefit the American auto industry. Now, that it has the support of Ford and the United Auto Workers, most observers agree that the deal with South Korea has sufficient votes for passage. And Obama has said he wants Congress to act on it by June. But the business community also wants action on the Colombia and Panama agreements negotiated by the George W. Bush administration. “From our perspective,” said Calman Cohen, president of the Emergency Committee for American Trade, “they are like three children. We want them all to go forward.” Congressional GOP leaders agree. “I strongly believe that we should consider all three agreements in the next six months,” House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp, R-Mich., said at a trade hearing this week. Objections to the Panama accord, based on tax and labor issues, seem to pose no major obstacles. Organized labor continues to highlight the murders of union organizers in Colombia and other labor-rights abuses there, but Ways and Means ranking member Sander Levin, D-Mich., a longtime critic of Colombia’s record on these issues, suggested in testimony this week that some accommodation might be possible. “I believe there is now an opportunity for the two governments to work together mutually to achieve real progress on the ground,” he said. Republican leaders in Congress have talked of voting on all three trade deals, possibly one right after the other, to facilitate the legislative calendar and, the administration suspects, to aggravate divisions among Democrats. Parliamentarians, meanwhile, will have to decide if fast-track negotiating authority still applies to the Colombia agreement. Because Congress failed to act on it when it was first submitted, the fast-track authority for the deal expired. This is not a problem in the House, where Republicans control the Rules Committee, but it is in the Senate, where fast-track is needed to facilitate a vote. Business lobbyists think that the Korea deal could move by itself before the August recess but that doing all three together will take considerably more time, contrary to Camp’s ambitions. Members of the business community are less sanguine about legislation blessing Russia’s application to join the WTO, where membership can be held up by any current member. Georgia has yet to give its assent to Russia’s application, which might make the need for U.S. action moot. To give Moscow the green light, Congress would have to accord Russia most-favored-nation trading status, thus granting it the lowest possible U.S. tariffs. That, in turn, requires waiving the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the 1974 trade act, effectively acknowledging that emigration from Russia is no longer a U.S. concern. Although Washington has no complaints about Russian emigration policy, Jackson-Vanik has long been seen as useful leverage over Moscow that many in Congress may be loath to relinquish. Capitol Hill staffers warn that passage of Russian WTO membership will be an uphill fight. Moscow has few champions in Congress, where Senate debate late last year over the New START deal demonstrated deep-seated suspicion among conservatives. Russia’s piracy of intellectual property and its past use of health and safety standards to bar the importation of U.S. poultry have also soured business interests. Buyers’ remorse over China’s admission to the WTO fuels congressional reluctance to make the same mistake twice. And Moscow’s past history of quixotic actions—cutting off gas to Ukraine, for example—makes advocates of WTO membership wary of going out on a limb only to have Moscow cut it off. Moscow is anxious to join the WTO, however, and membership is a key element in the administration’s “reset” of U.S.-Russia relations. Moreover, a Russia that is subject to international rules and dispute settlement might be better than a Russia operating outside the law. Ever since the financial crisis began in 2008, Russia has been one of the most frequent instigators of protectionist trade practices. WTO membership could help discipline such behavior. Veterans of past trade battles on Capitol Hill advise that the administration might have to give Congress something to vote for—some new oversight or restraint—to ease the pain of voting to waive Jackson-Vanik. When China was granted admission to the WTO, for example, Congress created a commission to report on Beijing’s human-rights record. After two years of relegating divisive trade issues to the back burner, in 2011 the administration now has a legislative trade agenda. The question is how much political capital it is willing to invest to get it through Congress. The White House can anticipate hand-to-hand combat in budget negotiations with Republicans over discretionary spending. Such conflict will unavoidably preoccupy administration strategists, who may want to husband their resources for more electorally attractive issues. Congress could accomplish a fair amount on trade this year, but doing so could be an uphill slog.

### Political Capital Key

#### Obama and Baucus pushing JV with Magnitsky – PC key

Chicago Tribune, 7-18-2012, “2Russia backs WTO entry, U.S. friction persists,” http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-trade-russia-votebre86h0lz-20120718,0,4273690.story

U.S. lawmakers are also debating legislation named after Sergei Magnitsky, an anti-corruption lawyer who died in Russian custody in 2009, that would instead impose visa bans and freeze assets on Russian officials deemed to be corrupt. "Really, the last thing we want is for the anti-Soviet Jackson-Vanik amendment to be replaced with anti-Russian legislation," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying after Wednesday's vote. President Barack Obama's administration backs repealing Jackson-Vanik, and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, a Democrat, plans to push forward a PNTR bill this month, but would attach the Magnitsky bill to the measure.

#### Political capital key

Tom Barkley, Reporter at Dow Jones, 6-22-2012,

“U.S., Russia Trade Bill Seen as Tough Going”, <http://www.nasdaq.com/article/us-russia-trade-bill-seen-as-tough-going-20120619-01309>

U.S. President Barack Obama said Monday after his bilateral meeting with Russia's President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Group of 20 meeting in Mexico that he emphasized that establishing permanent, normal trade relations with Russia was a priority "so that American businesses can take advantage of the extraordinary opportunities now that Russia is a member of the WTO." But winning passage by August, when Russia is expected to formally join the WTO, will be difficult in an election year given ongoing concerns about issues ranging from Russia's human rights practices to policy differences on Syria and Iran. Republican presidential challenger Mitt Romney recently called Russia "our No. 1 geopolitical foe." Mr. Brady said approving permanent, normal trade relations with Russia will be a "hard lift," and urged the Obama administration to step up its efforts to win over congressional support.

### Political Capital Key

#### Obama’s push is key.

Reuters, 4-26-2012, “” U.S. lawmaker urges Obama push on Russia trade bill,” CNBC, <http://www.cnbc.com/id/47191558>

With a major push from the White House, "it's possible" the bill could be passed by the August recess, Camp said. However, some trade policy observers think the hot-button issue could be delayed until after the U.S. elections in November. Unless Congress approves PNTR by revoking a Cold War-era provision known as the Jackson-Vanik amendment, Russia would be entitled under WTO rules to deny U.S. exporters tariff concessions it made to join the world trade body.

## Top Of The Docket

### JV-Magnitsky Is Top Of The Docket

# Links

## General

### 1nc – All-Purpose PC Link

#### The plan drains Obama’s political capital – election year makes it especially contentious

Yonah Freemark, MS in Transportation from MIT, 1-25-2012, “On Infrastructure, Hopes for Progress This Year Look Glum,” <http://www.thetransportpolitic.com/2012/01/25/on-infrastructure-hopes-for-progress-this-year-look-glum/>

President Obama barely mentions the need for improvements in the nation’s capital stock in his State of the Union. The contributions of the Obama Administration to the investment in improved transportation alternatives have been significant, but it was clear from the President’s State of the Union address last night that 2012 will be a year of diminished expectations in the face of a general election and a tough Congressional opposition. Mr. Obama’s address, whatever its merits from a populist perspective, nonetheless failed to propose dramatic reforms to encourage new spending on transportation projects, in contrast to previous years. While the Administration has in some ways radically reformed the way Washington goes about selecting capital improvements, bringing a new emphasis on livability and underdeveloped modes like high-speed rail, there was little indication in the speech of an effort to expand such policy choices. All that we heard was a rather meek suggestion to transform a part of the money made available from the pullout from the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts — a sort of war dividend whose size is undefined — to “do some nation-building right here at home.” If these suggestions fell flat for the pro-investment audience, they were reflective of the reality of working in the context of a deeply divided political system in which such once-universally supported policies as increased roads funding have become practically impossible to pursue. Mr. Obama pushed hard, we shouldn’t forget, for a huge, transformational transportation bill in early 2011, only to be rebuffed by intransigence in the GOP-led House of Representatives and only wavering support in the Democratic Senate. For the first term at least, the Administration’s transportation initiatives appear to have been pushed aside. Even so, it remains to be seen how the Administration will approach the development of a transportation reauthorization program. Such legislation remains on the Congressional agenda after three years of delays (the law expires on March 31st). There is so far no long-term solution to the continued inability of fuel tax revenues to cover the growing national need for upgraded or expanded mobility infrastructure. But if it were to pass, a new multi-year transportation bill would be the most significant single piece of legislation passed by the Congress in 2012. The prospect of agreement between the two parties on this issue, however, seems far-fetched. That is, if we are to assume that the goal is to complete a new and improved spending bill, rather than simply further extensions of the existing legislation. The House could consider this month a bill that would fund new highways and transit for several more years by expanding domestic production of heavily carbon-emitting fossil fuels, a terrible plan that would produce few new revenues and encourage more ecological destruction. Members of the Senate, meanwhile, have for months been claiming they were “looking” for the missing $12 or 13 billion to complete its new transportation package but have so far come up with bupkis. The near-term thus likely consists of either continued extensions of the current law or a bipartisan bargain that fails to do much more than replicate the existing law, perhaps with a few bureaucratic reforms.

### 1nc – HSR Specific Link

#### Passing HSR would drain Obama’s political capital

Yonah Freemark, MS in Transportation from MIT, 2-8-2011, The Transport Politic, http://www.thetransportpolitic.com/2011/02/08/the-white-house-stakes-its-political-capital-on-a-massive-intercity-rail-plan/)

The White House Stakes Its Political Capital on a Massive Intercity Rail Plan $53 billion proposed for investments over the next six years. The President wants to “Win the Future,” but will his Republican opponents relax their opposition to rail spending? Vice President Joe Biden spoke in Philadelphia this morning to announce that the Obama Administration intends to request from Congress $8 billion in federal funds for the advancement of a national high-speed rail system as part of a six-year transportation reauthorization bill. The White House’s commitment to fast trains has been evident throughout the Administration’s two-year lifespan, beginning with the addition of $8 billion for the mode in the 2009 stimulus bill and continued with $2.5 billion included in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget. Yet this new funding, which would add up to $53 billion over the six-year period, is remarkable for its ambition. It is clear that President Obama’s 2012 re-election campaign, already being framed in terms of “winning the future,” will hinge partially on whether voters agree with his assessment of the importance of investing in the nation’s rail transport infrastructure. In his speech, Mr. Biden argued that American wealth was founded on “out-building” the competition. Infrastructure, he noted, is the “veins and the arteries of commerce.” The President and his team will be making this case to the American people the next two years, hoping that the public comes to endorse this message of national advancement through construction. Whether the proposal — to be laid out in more detail with next week’s introduction the President’s full proposed FY 2012 budget — has any chance of success is undoubtedly worth questioning. Republicans have campaigned wholeheartedly against rail improvement projects in Iowa, Ohio, and Wisconsin; even Florida’s project, which would require no operating subsidies once in service, hangs in the balance. But as part of the larger transportation reauthorization legislation, which is apparently slated to move forward by this summer, a real expansion in high-speed rail funding seems possible, especially if Mr. Obama pressures the Democratic-controlled Senate to push hard for it.

### 2nc – General TI Link

#### The GOP will backlash against any increase in transportation spending

Yonah Freemark, MS in Transportation from MIT, 4-2-2012, “If Washington Can’t Commit, Chicago is Ready to Go It Alone,” http://www.thetransportpolitic.com/2012/04/02/if-washington-cant-commit-chicago-is-ready-to-go-it-alone/

What a contrast to the U.S. Congress, an allusion to which I can hardly overlook in this context. Last week, House and Senate officials pushed forward an extension of the existing surface transportation legislation — the ninth such extension since SAFETEA-LU, the previous law, originally was supposed to expire in 2009. The problem, suffice it to say, is not cowardice or nonsense political wheeling-dealing, but rather relatively minor — but painfully partisan — differences in perspective on the national transportation system. Over in the House, Republicans have campaigned for no increase in spending on mobility infrastructure (under the guise of fiscal moderation, with the goal of remaining within the constraints imposed by revenues provided by the Highway Trust Fund). Transit and other alternative mobility programs have been put under threat. In the Senate, Democrats promoted (and passed) a small increase in overall funding through a diversion of money from general (non-gas tax) revenues.

#### Obama’s involvement necessarily means it drains capital

Scott Nance, Editor of the Washington Current, 2-15-2012, The Democratic Daily, ln

Partisanship has begun to overtake the bipartisanship which Sens. Inhofe, left, and Boxer once forged on the new transportation bill. Last fall, Democrats and Republicans on the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee together linked arms to unanimously approve a new federal transportation bill. The committee's liberal chairwoman, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and conservative ranking Republican, Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, alike cheered the ability of the legislation, known as S. 1813, to put Americans back to work nationwide. Sadly, that Kumbaya moment just couldn't last. Now that it's moved from committee to the Senate floor, even this rare bill to achieve extraordinary bipartisan support has fallen victim to partisan sniping. Boxer complained Monday about an effort by Republican senators to introduce controversial, unrelated amendments to the highway bill, which would authorize the government to spend $109 billion over two years on roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure. "We're trying to get out of this recession. This is a jobs bill that's just waiting to happen. We have myself and Senator Inhofe as partners in this effort. We want to get to this highway bill," she says. "Listen, we have to put aside these wedge issues, these 'gotcha' issues. We have business after business after business that is struggling. This is a bipartisan bill. This will save 1.8 million jobs and create an additional million jobs." Meanwhile, Inhofe himself was busy making sure President Obama couldn't take any credit for the transportation bill, if it were to pass. "The bottom line is that the President's involvement is detrimental to our bipartisan efforts. Whenever the President gets involved in transportation infrastructure, he turns it in to a partisan, political issue," Inhofe says. "Remember back to his $787 billion failed stimulus bill, the one he claimed was an infrastructure bill? Despite all of his talk, only 3% went for infrastructure, 3% went for defense, and the rest went to liberal social engineering."

#### Spending drains political and economic capital

David Tomasky, Editor of Democracy, 9-19-2011, Newsweek, ln

Finally, Barack Obama found the passion. "Building a world-class transportation system is part of what made us an economic superpower," he thundered in his jobs speech on the evening of Sept. 8. "And now we're going to sit back and watch China build newer airports and faster railroads? At a time when millions of unemployed construction workers could build them right here in America?" Obama's urgency was rightly about jobs first and foremost. But he wasn't talking only about jobs when he mentioned investing in America--he was talking about our competitiveness, and our edge in the world. And it's a point he must keep pressing. In a quickly reordering global world, infrastructure and innovation are key measures of a society's seriousness about its competitive drive. And we're just not serious. The most recent infrastructure report card from the American Society of Civil Engineers gives the United States a D overall, including bleak marks in 15 categories ranging from roads (D-minus) to schools and transit (both D's) to bridges (C). The society calls for $2.2 trillion in infrastructure investments over the next five years. On the innovation front, the country that's home to Google and the iPhone still ranks fourth worldwide in overall innovation, according to the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF), the leading think tank on such questions, which conducts a biannual ranking. But we might not be there for long. In terms of keeping pace with other nations' innovation investments--"progress over the last decade," as ITIF labels it--we rank 43rd out of 44 countries. What's the problem? It isn't know-how; this is still America. It isn't identifying the needs; they've been identified to death. Nor is it even really money. There are billions sitting around in pension funds, equity funds, sovereign wealth funds, just waiting to be spent. The problem--of course--is politics. The idea that the two parties could get together and develop bold bipartisan plans for massive investments in our freight-rail system--on which the pro-business multiplier effects would be obvious--or in expanding and speeding up broadband (it's eight times faster in South Korea than here, by the way) is a joke. Says New York University's Michael Likosky: "We're the only country in the world that is imposing austerity on itself. No one is asking us to do it." There are some historical reasons why. Sherle Schwenninger, an infrastructure expert at the New America Foundation, a leading Washington think tank, says that a kind of anti-bigness mindset developed in the 1990s, that era in which the besotting buzzwords were "Silicon Valley" and "West Coast venture capital." Wall Street began moving away from grand projects. "In that '90s paradigm, the New Economy-Silicon Valley approach to things eschewed the public and private sectors' working together to do big things," Schwenninger says. "That model worked for software, social media, and some biotech. But the needs are different today." That's true, but so is the simple point that the Republican Party in Washington will oppose virtually all public investment. The party believes in something like Friedrich von Hayek's "spontaneous order"--that is, get government off people's backs and they (and the markets they create) will spontaneously address any and all problems. But looking around America today, can anyone seriously conclude that this is working?

#### Election year politics make the plan politically costly

Mark Szakonyi, an Associate Editor for the Journal of Commerce – focusing on the reporting of rail and intermodal issues, regulation and policy out of the JOC's Washington, D.C., bureau, 3-20-2012, ln

House Republicans are considering a short-term extension of the surface transportation bill instead of adopting the Senate's two-year plan. The decision to seek an extension as the March 31 deadline nears signals that the fight over transportation spending could become even more partisan as the presidential election nears. House Republicans are looking to push an extension of current spending for the ninth time, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica, R.-Fla., told attendees of an American Association of Port Authorities conference, where he was honored as Port Person of the Year. His statement on Tuesday was a clear sign that Republicans won't heed Senate leaders' and President Obama's call to adopt the Senate's $109 billion plan. Mica said he hoped the extension would be exempt from riders, which helped lead to a shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration last summer.

### A2: Obama Doesn’t Push

#### Obama will get involved pushing the plan, even though it’s a political loser for him – recent choices prove

Yonah Freemark, MS in Transportation from MIT, 2-14-2012, http://www.thetransportpolitic.com/2012/02/14/the-presidents-budget-full-of-ambition-short-on-congressional-support/

The executive branch’s proposed spending for FY 2013 would greatly expand spending on transit and intercity rail, but it faces a hostile Congress. It brings good news, however, for five California rail projects and new light rail lines for Charlotte, Honolulu, and Portland. The White House has introduced a budget — and a reauthorization proposal — that would significantly increase investment in transportation infrastructure over the next six years. Though the legislation as currently designed will not be passed into law because of reluctance from Congress, the Obama Administration’s continued efforts to expand funding for sustainable mobility options are to be praised. Over the course of the next six years, the Administration proposes significant expansions in transit and rail spending, increasing those programs from 22.9% of the overall DOT budget for surface transportation in fiscal year 2013 (and 21% in actual spending in FY 2011) to 35.7% of the budget in FY 2018. See table below. Though expenditures on highways would increase significantly as well, it would be in public transportation modes that the real expansion would be made. Significant spending on intercity rail — almost $50 billion over six years — as well as new transit capital projects ($21 billion) and state of good repair (SOGR, at $32 billion) would be the most important contributions of the program. In addition to revenues from the fuel tax (which no one seems willing to advocate increasing), the White House proposes to pay for its transportation bill by reducing the size of the Overseas Contingency Operations fund, which is used to support armed operations abroad. Because of the decision to pull out of Iraq and Afghanistan, the amount of money needed for this purpose is lessened, and thus the possibility of expanding spending on transportation. Most of the President’s proposal is unlikely to see the light of day in the House of Representatives, controlled by Republicans newly hostile to the idea of using Highway Trust Fund revenues to pay for transit projects. Yet their proposal would create a $78 billion funding shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund over the next ten years according to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office. That’s with $0 committed to transit! The Administration proposal, on the other hand, is fully funded (or at least accounted for\*) and would transform the Highway Trust Fund into the much more reasonably titled Transportation Trust Fund; the priorities of each piece of legislation are very clear. The defection of several House Republicans away from their own party’s transportation bill suggests that the legislation may not even get out of their chamber. At this point, the Senate’s bipartisan, mostly status-quo-extending two-year transportation reauthorization bill is now the most likely of all three proposals to be official government policy by the end of the spring. But even it faces the strong possibility of being ditched in favor of a simple extension of the existing bill, which will expire on March 31 according to the current law. Nonetheless, the Obama Administration’s plans for this expansion in transit funding, which mirror similar proposals from previous years, are a reminder of the ambitions for improved transportation that are possible in this country but continue to be derailed by political forces hostile to the idea of investing in the nation’s infrastructure. This is a serious proposal to significantly improve the state of the nation’s rail and bus systems — if we choose to take it.

# Internal Links

## Repealing JV Key To U.S.-Russian Relations

### Repealing JV Key To U.S.-Russian Relations

#### Repealing Jackson Vanik is key to U.S. Russia Relations

Finlay Lewis, Copley News Service White House & National Reporter, 2008, “Russia Longs to Graduate At the Top of Trade Class,” NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia, Congressional Quarterly Weekly- 08.10.2008, <http://www.ncsj.org/AuxPages/081009CQ_Jackson-Vanik.shtml>

President Obama has repeatedly stressed that he intends to “reset” the relationship between the United States and Russia. But for that to happen, he first needs to perform a rewind-and-erase task that has eluded his two immediate predecessors: ditching the Jackson-Vanik amendment, a Cold War relic that used trade to punish totalitarian regimes if they denied their citizens emigration rights. The law held out the most-favored-nation trade status (i.e., non-discriminatory access to vast and lucrative U.S. consumer markets) as an inducement to enact more liberal emigration policies. China, another Communist power that fell under the law’s strictures, received annual presidential waivers to bypass its conditions until 2002, when trade relations were formalized after China won entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001. But similar progress has been stymied for Russia. The measure was enacted as an amendment to a 1974 trade law under the sponsorship of two Democrats, Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington (House 1941-53; Senate 1953-83) and Rep. Charles A. Vanik of Ohio (1951-81), and the Kremlin has been in full compliance since at least 1994, three years after the Soviet Union collapsed. But Congress never managed to get a floor vote for a bill to formalize Russia’s release from the strictures of Jackson-Vanik, a process known as graduation. Bids by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush to get such a measure on track proved to be poorly timed. The first Clinton effort, in 1999, coincided with a major showdown between Russia and NATO over the Kosovo invasion. Bush tried again in the months after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, but he dropped the plan when Russia angered American farm groups by erecting trade barriers against U.S. poultry products. The idea resurfaced in 2003 but fizzled after U.S. troops discovered Russian military supplies in the hands of Saddam Hussein’s forces following the invasion of Iraq — hardly an optimal time to shop a Russia trade measure in Congress. Bush pledged to push for Russia’s graduation at summits with President Vladimir V. Putin in 2006 and 2008, but alleged unfair Russian trade practices in the marketing of some agricultural products, combined with ongoing violence in the Russian republic of Chechnya, discouraged the administration from trying to persuade a manifestly reluctant Congress. Perhaps mindful of these past miscues, Obama has kept almost entirely quiet — in public, anyway — about any plans for a Jackson- Vanik repeal. However, senior Russian officials have not been shy about putting words in his mouth. After Obama met separately with Putin, now the prime minister, and President Dmitry Medvedev in Russia last month, Sergey Lavrov, Russia’s minister of foreign affairs, told a TV interviewer that Obama “understands the awkwardness of — let’s put it mildly — this situation for the American side and has given an assurance that removal of this amendment will be one of the priorities of his administration.” Still, the status quo clearly rankles — especially since not only China, but also lesser economic powers such as Mongolia and Vietnam got clean Jackson-Vanik bills of health. In January, Putin went out of his way as he spoke at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, to mock U.S. lawmakers who argued to keep Russia under Jackson-Vanik because of Russian trade barriers against American poultry. To underline how little such objections had to do with the amendment’s original intent, Putin quoted former dissident Natan Sharansky, saying that he “had not served time in a Soviet prison for chicken meat.” Sharansky, who eventually emigrated to Israel, has emerged as a high-profile supporter of Russia’s graduation. Symbolic Politics But more than standard trade sniping — or unfortunate timing — has stayed Congress’ hand in lifting the Jackson-Vanik strictures, observers say. The law stands as a landmark in the battle to secure human rights legislation and has compiled a remarkably successful track record. Alan P. Larson, then undersecretary of State for economic, business and agricultural affairs, told lawmakers on the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade in 2002 that about 1 million Russian Jews had made their way to Israel between Jackson-Vanik’s enactment and the date of his testimony. Some 573,000 refugees, including Jews, evangelical Christians and Catholics, had left the old Soviet Union for the United States during the same period. Russia and Israel now authorize visa-free travel between the two nations — an unthinkable development when Jackson-Vanik was signed into law 35 years ago. Indeed, since Russia has long fulfilled the liberalization criteria of the law, the endurance of the trade penalty is not a question of policy, observers say. “Above and beyond anything else, it is symbolic politics,” said James F. Collins, the U.S. ambassador to Russia from 1997 to 2001. “This is seen as a kind of slight of Russia — a treatment of Russia that doesn’t accept its proper international standing . . . that doesn’t recognize that Russia is not the Soviet Union.” During his visit to Russia, Obama affirmed that his administration accords Russia the full respect due a great power and said he looks forward to building a deeper commercial relationship. But Obama’s powerful Russian audience probably won’t take such reassurances to heart until Jackson-Vanik is off the books. As Vladimir Lukin, then-deputy speaker of Russia’s lower house of Parliament, told The Wall Street Journal prior to a 2003 Bush visit to Russia, “This whole history of Jackson-Vanik is already so laughable, it’s legendary.” That perception is precisely why unshackling Russia “has an outsized importance,” said Stephen E. Biegun, executive secretary of Bush’s National Security Council and now Ford Motor Co.’s vice president for international affairs. “This one is low-hanging fruit. It is a tangible sign beyond good wishes and rhetoric that the United States is interested in investing in a constructive relationship with Russia. That makes it bigger than just Jackson-Vanik. There are very few issues we and Russia work on . . . that we can make progress on as dramatic as this.” Sandy Berger, Clinton’s national security adviser, likewise acknowledges that Jackson-Vanik remains freighted with symbolic importance, for better and worse. It has “become the Rorschach test for everything involved in the U.S.-Russia relationship,” he said.

### AT: Magnitsky Hurts Relations

#### US/Russian relations are resilient – Magnitsky won’t collapse it

Ria Novisti, 11-21-2011, “‘Magnitsky List’ Won’t Undermine Russia-US relations”, Lavrov says, p. http://en.rian.ru/russia/20111021/167961475.html)

The so-called Magnitsky list that bars entry to the U.S. for Russian officials allegedly involved in the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, will not undermine relations between the two countries, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday. The relations established by the Obama and Medvedev administrations are strong enough to withstand "various attempts to ruin them," Lavrov told three Russian radio stations. “I am sure, that the 'Magnitsky list'… won’t undermine the foundations of Russia-US relations," he said. Magnitsky was arrested and jailed without trial in November 2008, and died in police custody a year later after being denied medical care. The 37-year-old lawyer was working for Hermitage Capital Management, a British-based investment fund, when he accused tax and police officials of carrying out a $230-million tax scam. In July 2011, the U.S. State Department banned visas for about 60 Russian officials over their involvement in the detention and death of Magnitsky. To some extent, the introduction of this list is an attempt to “interfere into Russia’s domestic affairs” and “undermine the political line, held by President Obama,” Lavrov continued. “Perhaps, the authors of this list are more interested in the U.S. pre-election contest than in the essence of the problem.”

#### Magnitsky will not collapse US/Russia relations – overwhelming incentives to cooperate

Russia Beyond the Headlines, 6-19-2012, “Will the Magnitsky blacklist sour U.S.-Russian relations?”, p. <http://rbth.ru/articles/2012/06/19/the_magnitsky_blacklist_may_sour_us-russia_relations_15900.html>)

Russian Presidential Aide Yury Ushakov has also described the bill as unacceptable. Last week, Ushakov said that a response will come from Russia immediately if the U.S. Congress votes in favor of the Magnitsky bill. “If there is no law, there will be no responsive measures and the relations will become better,” he said, encouraging U.S. lawmakers to think twice before voting on the measure. Contrary to the harsh rhetoric from government officials, some experts argue that the Magnitsky bill, if adopted, is hardly likely to seriously affect U.S.-Russia bilateral relations. “This will make our relations worse, but the damage won’t be catastrophic because Russia and the U.S. also have a positive agenda,” said Sergei Markov, rector at the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics and a member of the Public Chamber of Russia. Markov pointed out that Russia and the U.S. work together on a number of important issues, such as combating terrorism and drug trafficking and will undoubtably continue this cooperation. “We also need to develop our economic relations,” said the analyst. Markov believes that Presidents Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin have the potential to develop good personal relations. “Putin had the opportunity to receive evidence that Obama keeps his word. Putin values this most of all,” the analyst said. Markov thinks that Obama, in turn, respects Putin’s leadership potential. Maksim Grigoryev, president of the Foundation for the Study of Problems of Democracy, also believes that U.S.-Russian relations will improve relatively soon, at least after the U.S. presidential elections, should Obama win a second term. Grigoryev thinks that the discussion around the Magnitsky bill is all about political PR. “It is important for Obama to present himself as a strong man on the international arena and neutralize the Republican Party's attacks that he is not hard enough on Russia. For Republicans, it is important to show that they fight against totalitarianism in Russia,” said Grigoryev. “This is a PR move for both the Republicans and Obama.”

# Impacts

## U.S.-Russian Relations Key To Hegemony

### Impacts Shell - Hegemony

#### U.S.-Russian relations key to U.S. hegemony

Stephen F. Cohen, Professor of Russian Studies and History at New York University and Professor of Politics Emeritus at Princeton University, 6-20-2011, “Obama's Russia 'Reset': Another Lost Opportunity?” The Nation, <http://www.thenation.com/article/161063/obamas-russia-reset-another-lost-opportunity>

An enduring existential reality has been lost in Washington’s post–cold war illusions and the fog of subsequent US wars: the road to American national security still runs through Moscow. Despite the Soviet breakup twenty years ago, only Russia still possesses devices of mass destruction capable of destroying the United States and tempting international terrorists for years to come. Russia also remains the world’s largest territorial country, a crucial Eurasian frontline in the conflict between Western and Islamic civilizations, with a vastly disproportionate share of the planet’s essential resources including oil, natural gas, iron ore, nickel, gold, timber, fertile land and fresh water. In addition, Moscow’s military and diplomatic reach can still thwart, or abet, vital US interests around the globe, from Afghanistan, Iran, China and North Korea to Europe and Latin America. In short, without an expansive cooperative relationship with Russia, there can be no real US national security.

#### Hegemony solves nuclear war

Zalmay Khalilzad, (Former Assist Prof of Poli Sci at Columbia), 1995 Spring, The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 18, No. 2; P. 84

Under the third option, the United States would seek to retain global leadership and to preclude the rise of a global rival or a return to multipolarity for the indefinite future. On balance, this is the best long-term guiding principle and vision. Such a vision is desirable not as an end in itself, but because a world in which the United States exercises leadership would have tremendous advantages. First, the global environment would be more open and more receptive to American values -- democracy, free markets, and the rule of law. Second, such a world would have a better chance of dealing cooperatively with the world's major problems, such as nuclear proliferation, threats of regional hegemony by renegade states, and low-level conflicts. Finally, U.S. leadership would help preclude the rise of another hostile global rival, enabling the United States and the world to avoid another global cold or hot war and all the attendant dangers, including a global nuclear exchange. U.S. leadership would therefore be more conducive to global stability than a bipolar or a multipolar balance of power system

## U.S.-Russia Relations Solve Prolif

### Impacts Shell – Prolif

#### Relations key to solving prolif, terrorism, nuke war

Global Security Newswire, 2009, “Russia Open to U.S. Suggestions on Improving Relations, Curbing Iran” [http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\_20090318\_4374.php 9](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20090318_4374.php%203/19)

Russian leaders have shown an interest in improving relations with Washington, a thaw that could enable the two former Cold War rivals to cooperate more closely on efforts to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions, the Washington Post reported today (see GSN, March 16). (Mar. 18) - Russian President Dmitry Medvedev might be willing to consider U.S. initiatives to improve relations between the two nations (Getty Images). The two nations experienced growing tensions during the Bush administration as they disagreed over a variety of international security issues, particularly a U.S. plan to deploy missile defenses in Eastern Europe as a hedge against potential Iranian missile threats. Regarding Iran, Russia has cautiously supported some U.N. Security Council resolutions setting mild sanctions against Iran for its refusal to freeze its uranium enrichment program, but Moscow scuttled U.S. efforts last year to boost those penalties. Trying to change the climate, U.S. President Barack Obama has sent his counterpart a letter seeking a packaged solution to U.S.-Russian disputes, and Moscow appears interested, according to some analysts and officials. Russian officials "want to send a message to the Obama administration that they're prepared to have a new relationship, but it will have to be quid pro quo," said Dmitri Simes, president of the Washington-based Nixon Center. "If they have to sacrifice their special relationship with Iran, they want to see a change in their relationship with the United States" (Pan/DeYoung, Washington Post, March 18). Simes directed a commission that called on the Obama administration this week to recognize the importance of good Russian relations to a breadth of international issues, including the Iranian nuclear crisis. "Without deep Russian cooperation, no strategy is likely to succeed in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, nuclear terrorism and nuclear war," says the commission report. "Working with Moscow to solve the Iran problem, including possibly strengthening sanctions on Iran if necessary, should be a top U.S. priority." "However, America is unlikely to be able to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue solely through sanctions, and Russia's cooperation could contribute substantially to a successful outcome," the report adds (Nixon Center release, March 16).

#### Proliferation causes extinction.

Guardian, 3-31-2008, Project Syndicate, “The Nuclear Risk,” http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/mar/31/newnuclearrisk

Vital pillars of the old arms-control and anti-proliferation regime have either been destroyed - as was the case with the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty - or substantially weakened, as with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT). Responsibility for this lies largely with the Bush administration, which, by terminating the ABM treaty, not only weakened the international control systems for nuclear weapons, but also sat on its hands when confronted with the NPT's imminent collapse. At the beginning of the 21st century, proliferation of military nuclear technology is one of the major threats to humanity, particularly if this technology falls into terrorists' hands. The use of nuclear weapons by terrorists would not only result in a major humanitarian tragedy, but also would most likely move the world beyond the threshold for actually waging a nuclear war. The consequences would be horrific.

### Ext. Relations Solve Prolif

#### Cooperation with Russia is key to solving WMD proliferation

Ariel Cohen, Research Fellow in Russian and Eurasian Studies in the Davis Institute for International Studies at The Heritage Foundation, June 2001, available online: http://www.heritage.org/Research/RussiaandEurasia/BG1447.cfm, accessed 8-27-02

A cooperative relationship with Russia is becoming increasingly more important as concerns continue to mount in Washington over a possible confrontation with China, Iran, or Iraq and over the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Russia's relations with those countries must be balanced against the fact that President Putin is struggling to establish Russia as a member of the club of democratic nations in good standing. To gain that stature, Moscow must demonstrate that it can conduct responsible foreign and domestic policy appropriate for members of the G-8 group of industrialized nations.

#### US-Russian Relations necessary to stop WMD Tech.

Oleksandr Gladkyy, an Edmund S. Muskie Fellow in international affairs at Southwest Missouri State University, in Springfield 2003. <http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2393/is_1_166/ai_106560179>/pg\_9. accessed 9/30/2005

U.S. interaction with Russia is crucial for a number of reasons: 1. Russia's proximity to the world's most unstable regions, which are of interest to the United States. 2. Russia's proximity to sources of terrorism. 3. Russia's nuclear and technology arsenal, one of the biggest in the world. 4. Russia's huge cache of chemical and biological weapon. 5. Russia's impact on the Commonwealth of Independent States. 6. Russia's influence on the present communist states. 7. the possibility of the dissolution of Russia. 8. the possibility that Russia will return to its totalitarian past.

## U.S.-Russia Relations Key To Solve Prolif

### Impact Shell

#### Combating terrorism and stopping North Korea and Iran from proliferating are impossible without Russian cooperation

Eugene B. Rumer, senior fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University, and Celeste A. Wallander, director of the Russia and Eurasia Program and the Trustee Fellow at CSIS, Winter 2003, The Washington Quarterly

Similarly, Russian participation is essential to the success of U.S. efforts to focus the international community's attention on the problem of nuclear proliferation and to secure an end to North Korean and Iranian nuclear pursuits. Russian cooperation is necessary for any U.S. effort to secure the requisite Security Council resolutions, should the United States decide to seek international sanctions to deter or dissuade North Korean and Iranian nuclear programs. All of these attributes appear to make Russia a country to be reckoned with. Its sheer presence from European seas to the Pacific Ocean makes the country a global player. Given Russia's size and reach -- from Europe to the Middle East to eastern Asia -- the Russian government clearly plays a role in several important regions. Combating terrorism and halting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) cannot be achieved without Russian cooperation.

#### Proliferation causes extinction.

Guardian, 3-31-2008, Project Syndicate, “The Nuclear Risk,” http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/mar/31/newnuclearrisk

Vital pillars of the old arms-control and anti-proliferation regime have either been destroyed - as was the case with the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty - or substantially weakened, as with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT). Responsibility for this lies largely with the Bush administration, which, by terminating the ABM treaty, not only weakened the international control systems for nuclear weapons, but also sat on its hands when confronted with the NPT's imminent collapse. At the beginning of the 21st century, proliferation of military nuclear technology is one of the major threats to humanity, particularly if this technology falls into terrorists' hands. The use of nuclear weapons by terrorists would not only result in a major humanitarian tragedy, but also would most likely move the world beyond the threshold for actually waging a nuclear war. The consequences would be horrific.

### Ext. Relations Key To Solve Prolif

#### Cooperation with Russia is key to solving WMD proliferation

Ariel Cohen, Research Fellow in Russian and Eurasian Studies in the Davis Institute for International Studies at The Heritage Foundation, June 2001, available online: http://www.heritage.org/Research/RussiaandEurasia/BG1447.cfm, accessed 8-27-02

A cooperative relationship with Russia is becoming increasingly more important as concerns continue to mount in Washington over a possible confrontation with China, Iran, or Iraq and over the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Russia's relations with those countries must be balanced against the fact that President Putin is struggling to establish Russia as a member of the club of democratic nations in good standing. To gain that stature, Moscow must demonstrate that it can conduct responsible foreign and domestic policy appropriate for members of the G-8 group of industrialized nations.

## AT: Impact Turns

### AT: Magnitsky Bad

#### Repealing JV key to U.S. economy

The Voice of Russia, 7-21-2012, “Jackson-Vanik 2.0,” The Voice of Russia, http://english.ruvr.ru/2012\_07\_21/Jackson-Vanik-2-0/

The US Congress is pursuing a double-standard policy towards Russia, the Russian Parliament’s upper house, the Federation Council, says in a comment on the situation around the so-called Magnitsky Act.

This past week, the US Senate Finance Committee approved the repeal of the Jackson-Vanik amendment. But supplements from the notorious law have been added to the document establishing normal trade relations with Russia. Washington is clearly trying to obtain a new mechanism to influence Moscow, experts say. The Voice of Russia has more. Russia is due to join the WTO in a matter of days. Moscow will become a WTO fully-fledged member with all respective duties, rights and advantages as early as in August. But signs are some of Russia’s trade partners will prove unprepared for the date. The United States has, for example, failed to repeal the 1974 Jackson-Vanik amendment, which restricted trade with the USSR due to the lack of freedom of emigration. Today, the amendment basically threatens US businesses. This has been repeatedly pointed out at the US National Foreign Trade Council, says the president of the American University in Moscow, Edward Lozansky, and elaborates. "The Jackson-Vanik amendment, reasonably made in its time, has since run its course, Edward Lozansky says. Now it is more damaging to American businesses than to Russia, or the non-existent USSR, which it aimed back in 1974. Once Russia joins the World Trade Organization, America will have to pay fines. Some companies may even lose the Russian market for that reason. It’s an example of historical irony."