



AGENDA NO: C3 & C4

MEETING DATE: March 22, 2022

**AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE
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PUBLIC REVIEW PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

From: [Don Maruska](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: C-4 on March 22, 2022, Council meeting -- Please reinforce proposed proclamation with encouragement for local energy actions
Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 2:04:40 PM

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Thank you for proposing the proclamation in support of the people of Ukraine. The terrible travesty wears on us all.

In addition to voicing our support, we need to get to a root cause of the Ukraine conflict. Putin has financed the war with the sales of oil and gas. Further, the high dependence of neighboring European countries on Russian oil and gas has limited effective action to curb Putin's aggression.

If we are to take effective action in support of Ukraine, we need to address these oil and gas issues. In a recent letter to the editor in the New Times, I encouraged each of us to become "Energy Freedom Fighters." I've copied the statement below and have added the "Energy Freedom Fighters Pledge" that identifies concrete actions within the grasp of each of us to diminish Putin's clout.

Items C-3 for a City Council Climate Action subcommittee and this item need to be pursued together.

Let's Be Energy Freedom Fighters

While we wring our hands over the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we are not powerless to make a difference. The Ukrainian people are fighting with their lives, but we can fight with how we choose to live.

The world's dependence on oil and gas gives Putin the resources and leverage for his power grab. Oil and gas sales account for 60% of Russian exports and 30% of its federal budget. European countries rely upon Russian oil and gas for 20% to as much as 100% of their fuel. Thus, unlike the U.S., which derives 10% or less of its supplies from Russia, they can't readily support Ukraine with a ban on imports from Russia.

So, what can we do in the U.S.? Let's become Energy Freedom Fighters. If businesses and households in the U.S. reduce usage by 10% or more or use renewable alternatives, we can tilt the tables on the Russians and save at the gas pump. Maybe we could sell our saved energy to allies who could combine those supplies with their own conservation efforts so they too could ban Russian energy imports.

The battle for democracy is a battle for energy freedom. As consumers, we have power.

Don Maruska, Don@DonMaruska.com

"Energy Freedom Fighters Pledge"

- A. We recognize that Russia is using Europe's dependence on Russian oil and gas both to fund its aggression and to tame reactions from other countries.
- B. We will not have our freedom or the freedom of people elsewhere be held hostage to fossil-fuel funded autocrats.
- C. In solidarity with the Ukrainian people and all who struggle for democracy and the right to live, we pledge to reduce our oil and gas consumption by at least 10% during the Ukrainian crisis. This will free up supplies to those who don't have alternatives and dampen the inflationary impacts of demand for oil and gas.
- D. Meanwhile, we support accelerated development of renewable energy alternatives, especially those that can be locally or nationally based to secure long-term economic and political freedom.
- E. We encourage U.S. and other aid organizations to include alternatives to oil and gas-powered heating and

other products with options like electric heat pumps to help meet immediate human needs.

Opportunities to reduce oil and gas consumption now:

1. Lower thermostats for heating, refrigeration, etc.
2. Turn off lights, heaters, and appliances when not in use.
3. Share rides with others, reduce trips, use public transportation.
4. Avoid purchasing plastics, which are made from petroleum; use biodegradable and sustainable materials instead.
5. Quit bottled water. Use refillable containers.
6. Switch to 100% renewable energy with your electricity provider.
7. Buy local to reduce oil and gas used for transporting goods.

Signed: _____

Sincerely yours,

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