

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 8, 2022

Mr. James Quincey  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
The Coca-Cola Company  
One Coca-Cola Plaza  
Atlanta, Georgia 30313

Dear Mr. Quincey:

We write with great disappointment concerning your continued business operations in President Vladimir Putin's Russia. We are witnessing the largest displacement of a European nation since World War II because of Mr. Putin's declaration of war in Ukraine. Russia has revealed its true colors to the international community and Putin has proven himself to be a war criminal. On Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken backed this claim stating, "we've seen very credible reports of deliberate attacks on civilians, which would constitute a war crime."

At a time when virtually the entire world has reacted with horror, disgust, and sadness to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, you and The Coca-Cola Company (Coca-Cola) have not lived up to your own humanitarian standard. As you may recall, many Republican members of Congress recently wrote to you with concern over Coca-Cola's sponsorship of the slave labor Winter Olympics in China. In Coca-Cola's written response, your Global Vice President of Human Rights, Paul Lalli, made clear that the company's "commitment to human rights is sincere and embedded in our culture and strategy." He went on to tout that your "touchstone is the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights," which is the "global benchmark for corporate human rights responsibility."

Mr. Quincey, the war in Ukraine is a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions. According to the United Nations, 2 million refugees have already fled Ukraine. Casualties, especially of innocent civilians, are rising by the day. At last count, 364 Ukrainians have died and at least 759 have been injured. Furthermore, this tragedy is unfolding before our very eyes on every news channel. We are watching the destruction of a nation in real time.

From the very early days of Putin's unprovoked attack, governments, corporations, and citizens all united to protect Ukraine. Global corporations like Delta, Apple, Ford, Microsoft, Disney, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, BP, Equinor, and Exxon, to name a few, have either exited or suspended their operations in Russia. Why has Coca-Cola not joined the growing list of companies who are united in cutting Russia's dictatorial regime off from the rest of the free world?

Therefore, we request that you immediately suspend operations at your 10 bottling plants in Russia and sales of your products to her people.

You found reason to engage in the political arena before, so why not now?

For instance, Coca-Cola spearheaded a disingenuous and hyperbolic debate over Georgia's election law in April 2021. At that time, you said that "[Coca-Cola's] approach has always been to work with stakeholders to advocate for positive change."

Is ending a senseless war not "positive change?" Or, will you admit that your company's political approach, including your current unwillingness to stand in solidarity with the innocent people of Ukraine, is simply a business decision? You were afraid of boycotts from left-leaning groups on social media during Georgia's Election Integrity Act debate, but are now afraid of lost profits should Coca-Cola dare to stop selling its products in Russia today. The answer is yours; however, your silence only leads to one conclusion.

There is still time for you to correct Coca-Cola's course. Put the Ukrainian people before profits by cutting off Russia from your operations and products.

The international community must be stalwart in our condemnation of Putin's dictatorial regime. The world is watching – do the right thing.

Sincerely,



Rep. Earl L. "Buddy" Carter



Rep. Drew Ferguson



Rep. Austin Scott



Rep. Jody Hice