



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

February 28, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Rhode Island, a state founded on the principle of religious freedom, was the first colony in America to declare its independence. A statue known as “The Independent Man” sits high up on the dome of the Rhode Island State House, symbolizing freedom, independence and hope and serving as a reminder of the importance of standing up for what you believe in.

Like many Rhode Islanders, I am shocked and saddened to witness the devastation and invasion taking place in Ukraine, a sovereign nation with a democratically elected government. At the same time, I have been deeply moved by the spirit and courage of the Ukrainian people who are standing up for democracy and independence in remarkable ways.

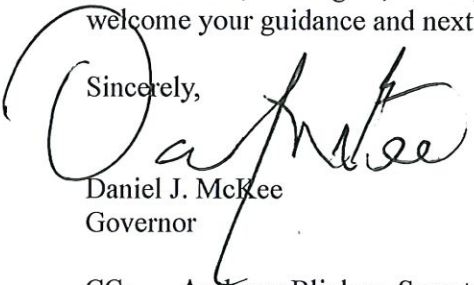
Due to Russia’s despicable acts of war, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians have been forced to flee for their lives, leaving loved ones behind to defend their nation.

Today, I am writing to say that Rhode Island is prepared to welcome with open arms Ukrainian refugees who were forced from their homes by Russian aggression. Ukrainian refugees should know that they can find solace and safety in our state.

The Ukrainian people and their leaders continue to remind us why democracy matters and why it’s worth fighting for – and Rhode Island stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine during this dark hour in history.

Rhode Island, once again, is ready and willing to do its part to accept refugees into our communities. I welcome your guidance and next steps on how we can help.

Sincerely,


Daniel J. McKee
Governor

CC: Anthony Blinken, Secretary, U.S. Department of State
Lawrence Bartlett, Director of Refugee Admissions, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, U.S. Department of State