March 4, 2022

To: Executive and Small Cabinet Agencies

From: Governor Jay Inslee

Subject: State Agency Review of Russian Government Contracts and/or Investments

On February 23, 2022, the Russian Federation launched an unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine. This invasion, which continues, has resulted in grievous loss of life among Ukrainian military personnel and civilians, and it has sparked an historic refugee crisis with global impacts—including for Washington state's large Ukrainian, Russian, and other Eastern European communities. Virtually the entire world, including governments, businesses, and ordinary citizens, have united in condemnation of this unjust invasion, resulting in unprecedented economic sanctions upon Russian state institutions and leaders. As the world responds to this crisis with humanitarian and military aid, Washington State must also do its part in this common effort.

On February 28, 2022, I announced that my administration will conduct a review to identify any commercial or other contracts, investments, and relationships between my executive branch agencies and Russian state institutions or companies. The goal of this review is to identify and ultimately sever these relationships.

Accordingly, I direct all executive and small cabinet agencies to immediately begin identifying any contracts or investments with Russian government agencies; or companies that are, to any extent, Russian-state-owned; or entities or individuals sanctioned by the United States government in response to Russia’s expanded invasion of Ukraine. Information regarding U.S. government sanctions against Russia can be found on the websites of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration and the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

No action to terminate a contract or investment may occur without the express approval of the Governor’s Office. Questions that arise during this review may be submitted to the Office of Financial Management at OFMContractsDirective@ofm.wa.gov.

Each agency’s initial review shall be completed, and an initial report summarizing those findings shall be submitted to my Office of General Counsel, no later than March 18, 2022. In
this initial review, agencies shall identify agency contracts and/or investments that clearly meet the above criteria.

For agency contracts and/or investments that require further investigation to determine their status under this Directive, agencies shall complete this further review, and submit a follow-up report summarizing those findings to my Office of General Counsel, no later than April 1, 2022. Agencies may request from the Governor’s Office a reasonable extension to complete their full investigation before submitting their final report.

After reviewing an agency’s findings, the Governor’s Office will provide the agency with further direction to begin terminating identified contracts or divesting state money and/or assets from any identified investments quickly and to the extent practicable.

Additionally, I direct all executive and small cabinet agencies to immediately refrain from entering new contracts or making new investments with Russian government agencies; or companies that are, to any extent, Russian-state-owned; or entities sanctioned by the United States government in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

I also invite other public agencies, organizations, and separately elected officials to conduct similar reviews within their agencies, organizations, and jurisdictions.

This Directive, effective immediately, shall remain in effect until further notice. Thank you for standing in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

Contact Information:
1. Governor’s Office, Office of General Counsel: contact Kathryn Leathers, General Counsel, kathryn.leathers@gov.wa.gov.
2. Office of Financial Management: contact Roselyn Marcus, OFM, Assistant Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs, roselyn.marcus@ofm.wa.gov.