United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 22, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Hegseth and Secretary Rubio,

We write to follow up on Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Congressionally appropriated funds for the Baltic Security Initiative (BSI). Since 2021, the BSI has enhanced the defense capabilities and interoperability of our Baltic allies. We urge you to ensure the swift obligation of this funding and execution of programs considering intensified Russian aggression in the region against key frontline allies.

We welcome the BSI spend plan provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) on May 29, 2026, which targets investments in integrated defense, maritime security, irregular warfare, and other critical capabilities as required by statute. On September 15, a second update from DoD indicated that BSI was prioritized for notification and in its final stages of coordination, including with the Department of State. While this is important progress, escalating Russian threats, specifically against the Baltic States, demand more urgent U.S. security assistance. In light of recent airspace incursions, gray-zone tactics, and heightened nuclear warnings against the Baltics, accelerating the delivery of assistance under the BSI must be a priority. We urge disbursement by the end of the calendar year and ask that you provide an update on such plans no later than November 19, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

John Cornyn
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Ruben Gallego
United States Senator