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From: "Barkoff, Kendra" <kendra_a_barkoff@ovp.eop.gov>
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: VPOTUS Afternoon Press Mentions--May 13, 2014
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From: Firsht, Elana (Intern)
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To: Barkoff, Kendra; Trotter, Kingsley; Hart, Elizabeth; Spector, Stephen
Subject: VPOTUS Afternoon Press Mentions--May 13, 2014

VPOTUS AFTERNOON PRESS MENTIONS

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Chicago Sun-Times

BIDEN headlining Durbin fundraisers today

By: Lynn Sweet / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** is headlining two fundraisers in downstate Alton on Tuesday afternoon to bolster the campaign war chests Sen. Dick Durbin D-Ill. and the Democratic

KPLR

Vice President BIDEN to speak at Archgrounds

By: Anthony Kiekow / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** will speak in downtown St. Louis Tuesday afternoon at 3:30.

Plains Dealer

Vice President BIDEN coming to Cleveland to promote transit program the GOP would pare back

By: Stephen Koff / May 13, 2014

When Vice President Joe **BIDEN** visits a Cleveland rapid transit station on Mayfield Rd. Wednesday, he'll promote a form of federal spending that in its broadest outlines has few opponents.

Associated Press

VP BIDEN'S son joins Ukraine gas company's board

May 13, 2014

Hunter **BIDEN**, the younger son of Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, is joining the board of a gas company operating in Ukraine, the company announced Tuesday, as the West seeks to help Ukraine wean itself off its dependence on Russian energy.

USA Today

BIDEN'S son joins board of Ukraine gas company

By: David Jackson / May 13, 2014

Vice President **BIDEN'S** son Hunter is joining the board of a gas company that operates in Ukraine.

[Politico](#)

Hunter BIDEN to Ukraine gas board

By: Lucy McCalmont / May 13, 2014

Hunter **BIDEN**, the younger son of Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, will be joining Ukraine's largest private gas producer, the company announced in a statement

[The Hill](#)

WH: BIDEN'S son to Ukraine gas company isn't U.S. endorsement

By: Justin Sink / May 13, 2014

Ukraine's largest private gas producer has hired Vice President **BIDEN'S** youngest son, but White House press secretary Jay Carney insisted on Tuesday the move shouldn't be read as an official endorsement by the U.S. government.

[ABC](#)

BIDEN'S Son Gets Ukrainian Oil Company Gig

By: Jordyn Phelps / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** youngest son Hunter **BIDEN** has joined the board of directors of Ukraine's largest oil company at a time that the U.S. is urging Ukraine to develop energy independence from Russia and just days after the vice president visited Ukraine.

[Washington Times](#)

Joe BIDEN'S son Hunter to head legal unit at Ukraine's largest private gas company

By: Jessica Chasmar / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN'S** youngest son, Hunter, has been appointed head of legal affairs at Ukraine's largest private gas producer.

[Washington Examiner](#)

Jay Carney: Joe BIDEN'S son accepted position with Ukrainian gas company as 'private citizen'

By: Susan Crabtree / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** son, Hunter **BIDEN**, has accepted a position with Ukraine's largest private gas producer, but that in no way means the White House signed off on or endorses his hiring, presidential spokesman Jay Carney said Tuesday.

[National Journal](#)

Another BIDEN Has Waded Into the Ukraine Crisis

By: Marina Koren / May 13, 2014

Joe **BIDEN** has been the White House's go-to guy during the Ukraine crisis, touring former Soviet republics and reassuring their concerned leaders. And now, he's not the only **BIDEN** involved in the region.

[International Business Times](#)

Burisma Holdings: BIDEN'S Son Joins Ukraine's Top Private Gas Company

By: Sophie Song/ May 13, 2014

The Ukrainian gas company that Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** son, Hunter **BIDEN**, just joined is a growing conglomerate that has been compared to "Exxon in its early days."

[Mediaite](#)

Bad Ideas in Oligarchy: BIDEN'S Son Joins Board of Ukrainian Energy Company

By: Tina Nguyen / May 13, 2014

Today, Burisma Holdings, a company that describes itself as "Ukraine's largest private gas producer," announced the newest member of its Board of Directors: R. Hunter **BIDEN**, a seasoned lawyer with extensive international business experience, will be in charge of the company's legal unit, as well as "provide support for the Company among international organizations." His end goal: to guide the company in a manner that will "contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine."

[Business Insider](#)

Joe BIDEN'S Son Is Now On The Board Of One Of Ukraine's Biggest Gas Conglomerates

By: Brett Logiurato / May 13, 2014

Hunter **BIDEN**, the youngest son of Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, has been appointed to the board of directors of Ukraine's largest private-gas producer.

The company, Burisma Holdings, announced **BIDEN'S** appointment on its website Tuesday. Burisma said **BIDEN** would be the new head of the company's legal unit.

[Reuters](#)

Turkey to ignore court order to pay compensation to Cyprus

By: Tulay Karadeniz and Ece Toksabay / May 13, 2014

... A new round of peace talks resumed in February. U.S. Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** is expected on the island on May 21-23 to try to spur on the process, Cypriot official sources said.

[AFP](#)

Kerry eyes role in Cyprus peace process

May 13, 2014

... US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** is to visit Cyprus later this month as part of efforts to find ways to counter what Washington sees as Russia's destabilizing actions in Ukraine.

[USA Today](#)

A view from campus on sexual assaults

By: Emmaline Campbell / May 13, 2014

... In light of the department's record of ineptitude, the White House's recent

announcement that it would take on the issue is reason for hope. It has the clout to blow past the obstacles that have held back the Department of Education. The White House can speak directly to college students through social media, as it did last month with the YouTube video "1 is 2 Many," featuring celebrities such as actor Steve Carell and public figures such as Vice President Joe **BIDEN**.

Chicago Sun-Times

BIDEN headlining Durbin fundraisers today

By: Lynn Sweet / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** is headlining two fundraisers in downstate Alton on Tuesday afternoon to bolster the campaign war chests Sen. Dick Durbin D-Ill. and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Durbin is flying to Illinois and back to D.C. on **BIDEN'S** plane, with a stop in St. Louis for an official event with the vice president and Interior Sec. Sally Jewell at the CityArchRiver project at the St. Louis Gateway Arch "to discuss the economy and highlight the progress of this future urban park site."

Last month, I reported **BIDEN** will be the draw at the Alton events for Durbin, who faces GOP nominee Illinois state Sen. Jim Oberweis R-Sugar Grove in November. DSCC chair Sen. Michael Bennet D-Col. will also be attending the high-dollar events.

I posted earlier that President Barack Obama returns to Chicago on May 22 to keynote major donor fundraising events for Durbin and the DSCC.

Today, **BIDEN** appears at a reception in Alton followed by a dinner at the home of John and Jayne Simmons.

The price points

*\$35,000 per couple to co-chair the dinner, with a photo opp.

*\$10,000 one ticket to the dinner

*\$5,000 to co-chair the general reception with a photo opp.

*\$1,000 one ticket to the reception.

KPLR

Vice President BIDEN to speak at Archgrounds

By: Anthony Kiekow / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** will speak in downtown St. Louis Tuesday afternoon at 3:30.

His speech is about the economy and construction projects.

He will visit the St. Louis Gateway Arch and get a look at the renovations going on in the area.

The \$380 Million City-Arch-River project will connect the Gateway Arch to downtown St. Louis.

The new date of completion for the project is 2016.

The project was funded through federal, state, local and private funds.

The Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will also be in attendance.

BIDEN'S speech could be a glimpse to his platform for a 2016 presidential run.

It would be **BIDEN'S** third attempt to win the office.

Plains Dealer

Vice President BIDEN coming to Cleveland to promote transit program the GOP would pare back

By: Stephen Koff / May 13, 2014

When Vice President Joe **BIDEN** visits a Cleveland rapid transit station on Mayfield Rd. Wednesday, he'll promote a form of federal spending that in its broadest outlines has few opponents.

Roads need paving. Bridges need fixing. Nearly everyone agrees.

But exactly what else counts as necessary for federal transportation spending, including a Red Line rapid station in Cleveland, is another matter.

If House of Representatives Republicans prevail, there could be much less money in the future for projects like the new Little Italy-University Circle Rapid Station, which is scheduled to open in 2015 and **BIDEN** will highlight Wednesday.

BIDEN'S Cleveland visit is part of a broader, week-long lobbying effort by the White House to draw attention to a desire to keep spending on improving infrastructure. The overarching issue – keeping the nation's roads and bridges open and safe – has wide consensus.

Even the biggest pro-business lobbying groups in Washington, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, are spending the week much like **BIDEN** and his boss, President Barack Obama. They're holding

forums and other events to tell Congress that it's time for a major new transportation bill.

The current bill expires Sept. 30, and the Highway Trust Fund, which provides the money, could run short a month earlier.

Obama is going to the construction site of the new structure that will replace the Tappan Zee Bridge, spanning New York's Hudson River, the same day as **BIDEN'S** visit to the new Little Italy-University Circle Rapid Station.

But first, **BIDEN** today will go to St. Louis and highlight a pedestrian bridge being built over a highway that separates residents and tourists from the Gateway Arch. And on Friday, the White House says, Obama will meet with workers to discuss infrastructure around Washington, D.C.

The White House says that 65 percent of the nation's major roads are rated as being in "less than good" condition and one in four bridges require significant repairs or cannot handle today's traffic.

But agreement on need is not the same as agreement on where to get the money, or on how to spend it.

Most current federal transportation projects, including money that gets funneled to state highway departments, are funded through a tax on gasoline (18.4 cents per gallon) and diesel fuel (24.4 cents per gallon). Those taxes have not been raised since 1993, although from 1993 to 1997, 4.3 cents of the gasoline tax was used for deficit reduction before being redirected to transportation projects.

The static tax is just part of the problem. Cars also get better gasoline mileage since the last hike, and with inflation, the money doesn't buy as much steel and asphalt.

So Obama would replace the expiring transit bill, called Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, or MAP-21, with a \$302 billion, four-year bill. Obama's bill would supplement the gas tax with money from closing certain corporate tax provisions, including one that the White House and Democrats say has led to companies sheltering income overseas.

Republicans such as House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster have their own ideas -- both for annual transportation appropriations, which last a year at a time, and for a longer-term road-and-bridge improvement program.

"While Chairman Shuster respects that the Administration has put forward its own detailed proposal, the first time it has done so, he will not agree with it on all the details," said Justin Harclerode, Shuster's spokesman. "Thus far, the chairman has not elaborated on any potential differences or areas of agreement as the Transportation Committee continues to develop its surface transportation proposal."

The last big highway bill, MAP-21, authorized \$105 billion over two years, marking the first agreement on a large highway bill since 2005. A series of Band-Aid approaches, as the White House had put it, sufficed in the interim.

Many supporters, including Ohio Democratic U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, say that spending on roads helps the American economy, not only by providing road-building jobs but also by keeping the economy moving.

"Road and bridge projects don't just mean safer and less congested roads and construction jobs – they also help attract new employers and economic development," Brown said in an email this week.

Brown said that more than 8 percent of Ohio's bridges require major repairs or replacement. He also noted the better known projects awaiting funding, such as Route 8 in Akron and the Brent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati.

Federal highway spending, however, has become a boondoggle in the eyes of some fiscal conservatives. This is where ideological groups split with those who have interests to protect.

Emily Goff, a transportation and infrastructure policy analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation, noted that MAP-21 funds go not only to build roads and bridges but also to build recreation trails and bicycle paths. These are important to groups pushing for transportation alternatives, but they siphon money that could go for even more roads and bridges to ease considerable traffic congestion, Goff says.

Yet MAP-21 requires states to set aside money for these kinds of alternatives, Goff says, to the tune of \$27.5 million this year in Pennsylvania and \$78.9 million in Texas.

"Identifying a connection between these activities and a federal highway program concerned with interstate highway system construction and maintenance proves difficult," Goff wrote in a recent Heritage blog post. "Indeed, there is nothing federal or highway about bicycle paths, landscaping, or any of these local activities."

The RTA station in Cleveland is a project that could raise a similar question, with its emphasis on meshing light rail with development around University Circle and Little Italy. The existing station, on Euclid Avenue at E. 120th Street, is considered functionally obsolete, so the new station will be placed several blocks south, at Mayfield Road at E. 119th Street.

About \$8.9 in funding comes from highly competitive U.S. Department of Transportation grants, according to the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority.

The grant money did not come MAP-21. Rather, it came from a program created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or the recession-era

stimulus act. The transportation component of the stimulus act, called Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), gets money appropriated annually from Congress -- \$3.5 billion so far for 270 projects nationwide, including \$600 million this year, the White House says.

The TIGER program will end soon, too -- unless Obama and **BIDEN** get their way.

In that case, TIGER would become permanent, greatly expanded to \$5 billion over four years. The Obama White House wants to fold it into the next iteration of a four-year road-and-bridge bill.

House Republicans are unlikely to go along. The House appropriations subcommittee for transportation on May 6 recommended a lower sum of \$100 million for TIGER in 2015, and the GOP-led panel would further restrict TIGER grants to "projects that will address critical transportation needs, such as road, highway and bridge construction and improvement."

In other words, while money for the Little Italy-University Circle RTA station appears secure, future projects like it could go unfunded.

That is apparently why **BIDEN** is coming to Cleveland: to highlight what the money has helped build and point out what would have happened were it not there.

The White House would not comment on this in advance of the vice president's trip. In an email, White House spokesman Keith Maley said, "Members of both parties have put forward their own ideas on the Hill, and the most important thing is that we pass a long-term bill that creates jobs and provides certainty for cities, states, and businesses. It's time to get the job done."

Associated Press

VP BIDEN'S son joins Ukraine gas company's board

May 13, 2014

Hunter **BIDEN**, the younger son of Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, is joining the board of a gas company operating in Ukraine, the company announced Tuesday, as the West seeks to help Ukraine wean itself off its dependence on Russian energy.

Burisma Holdings said **BIDEN**, an attorney and chairman of the board of the World Food Program USA, will head the Burisma's legal unit, and will also seek support for the company among international organizations.

"I believe that my assistance in consulting the company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine," **BIDEN** said in a statement released by the company.

The announcement comes as Ukraine and the U.S. are looking to decrease Ukraine's reliance on Russian energy amid threats from Moscow to cut Ukraine off if it doesn't pay massive debts. Western countries believe Russia would have less leverage in the crisis with Ukraine if Europe was less dependent on Russian gas.

"Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer," said **BIDEN** spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff. "The vice president does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company."

Still, Vice President **BIDEN** has spoken frequently about the need to increase Ukraine's energy independence, including during a recent visit to Kiev. He's also a key interlocutor for the Obama administration with Kiev and other anxious nations in the region as the crisis there has unfolded.

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USA Today

BIDEN'S son joins board of Ukraine gas company

By: David Jackson / May 13, 2014

Vice President **BIDEN'S** son Hunter is joining the board of a gas company that operates in Ukraine.

Burisma Holdings, Ukraine's largest private gas producer, said Hunter **BIDEN** -- an attorney -- will be in charge of its legal unit and help the company with other international organizations.

"I believe that my assistance in consulting the Company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine," the younger **BIDEN** said in a statement.

The **BIDEN** appointment comes as the United States and allied nations try to help Ukraine reduce its dependence on Russian energy by developing other sources.

Kendra Barkoff, spokesperson for Vice President **BIDEN**, said that "Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer. The Vice President does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company."

Politico

Hunter BIDEN to Ukraine gas board

By: Lucy McCalmont / May 13, 2014

Hunter **BIDEN**, the younger son of Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, will be joining Ukraine's largest private gas producer, the company announced in a statement

"The company's strategy is aimed at the strongest concentration of professional staff and the introduction of best corporate practices, and we're delighted that Mr. **BIDEN** is joining us to help us achieve these goals," Alan Apter, Burisma Holdings' chairman of the board of directors, said in a statement, which was reported by The Moscow Times on Tuesday.

BIDEN, joining the board, will be in charge of the legal unit, the company said and will provide support for Burisma Holdings "among international organizations."

BIDEN said the company will help strengthen Ukraine's economy.

"Burisma's track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine," **BIDEN** said in a statement. "As a new member of the Board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the Company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine."

The country has faced rising tensions with Russia and on Monday, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said the U.S. would not recognize a referendum held Sunday in Eastern Ukraine aiming for self-rule in the region, calling it "illegal" under Ukrainian law.

Vice President **BIDEN** also expressed support for Ukraine, when he visited the country in April and slammed Russia for its role in the annexation of Crimea.

The Hill

WH: BIDEN'S son to Ukraine gas company isn't U.S. endorsement

By: Justin Sink / May 13, 2014

Ukraine's largest private gas producer has hired Vice President **BIDEN'S** youngest son, but White House press secretary Jay Carney insisted on Tuesday the move shouldn't be read as an official endorsement by the U.S. government.

"Hunter **BIDEN** and other members of the **BIDEN** family are obviously private citizens, and where they work does not reflect an endorsement by the administration or by the vice president or president," Carney told reporters.

The vice president's office also defended the hire.

"Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer. The Vice President does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company. For any

additional questions, I refer you to Hunter's office," said Kendra Barkoff, spokeswoman for Vice President **BIDEN**.

Burisma, which produces the equivalent of 10,500 barrels of oil daily, announced **BIDEN'S** hire in a statement earlier Tuesday.

"The company's strategy is aimed at the strongest concentration of professional staff and the introduction of best corporate practices, and we're delighted that Mr. **BIDEN** is joining us to help us achieve these goals," said Alan Apter, Burisma Holdings' chairman of the board of directors.

The younger **BIDEN**, for his part, said he believed his legal and corporate advice would "contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine."

"Burisma's track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine," Hunter **BIDEN** said.

But the hire could raise ethical questions — and diplomatic headaches — for the White House. During a visit to Kiev last month, the vice president discussed energy security with Ukraine's leaders, including ways the country could produce its own domestic production of natural gas.

"Imagine where you'd be today if you were able to tell Russia: keep your gas. It would be a very different world," the vice president told Ukrainian lawmakers.

The hire also came a day after Russian energy giant Gazprom threatened to halt natural gas shipments to Ukraine unless the country prepays for its energy. That announcement has sparked fears that energy costs could strain Ukraine's fragile economy.

ABC

BIDEN'S Son Gets Ukrainian Oil Company Gig

By: Jordyn Phelps / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** youngest son Hunter **BIDEN** has joined the board of directors of Ukraine's largest oil company at a time that the U.S. is urging Ukraine to develop energy independence from Russia and just days after the vice president visited Ukraine.

The vice president's office and the White House rejected any suggestion that there was a conflict of interest.

"Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer," Vice President **BIDEN'S** spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff told ABC News. "The vice president does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company."

White House spokesman Jay Carney said, “Hunter **BIDEN** and other members of the **BIDEN** family are obviously private citizens and where they work ... does not reflect an endorsement by the administration or by the vice president or president.”

According to a press release from the oil company, Burisma Holdings, **BIDEN** will help the company manage its relationships with “international organizations,” in addition to overseeing the company’s legal unit.

“Burisma’s track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine,” Hunter **BIDEN** said in a statement.

“As a new member of the Board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine,” he said.

BIDEN, a graduate of Yale Law School, is a counsel to the New York-based law firm Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP and serves as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service

Washington Times

Joe BIDEN’S son Hunter to head legal unit at Ukraine’s largest private gas company

By: Jessica Chasmar / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN’S** youngest son, Hunter, has been appointed head of legal affairs at Ukraine’s largest private gas producer.

Burisma Holdings said in a statement that Hunter **BIDEN** will be in charge of the company’s legal unit and will provide support for the company among international organizations.

“Burisma’s track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine,” Mr. **BIDEN** said.

“As a new member of the Board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the Company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine,” he said.

White House press secretary Jay Carney said Tuesday that Mr. **BIDEN’S** new position “does not reflect an endorsement by the administration,” Time magazine’s Zeke Miller reported.

The announcement comes just one day after Russia's state energy giant Gazprom threatened to halt natural gas shipments to Ukraine unless the country pays in advance for supplies.

The vice president has condemned Russia for its intervention in Ukraine and has pledged to support efforts to reduce its dependency on Russian energy, The Moscow Times reported.

Washington Examiner

Jay Carney: Joe BIDEN'S son accepted position with Ukrainian gas company as 'private citizen'

By: Susan Crabtree / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** son, Hunter **BIDEN**, has accepted a position with Ukraine's largest private gas producer, but that in no way means the White House signed off on or endorses his hiring, presidential spokesman Jay Carney said Tuesday.

Burisma Holdings announced Tuesday that Hunter **BIDEN**, **BIDEN'S** youngest son, would serve on the company's board of directors.

The company in a news release on its website said Hunter **BIDEN** will be in charge of the Burisma's legal unit and will "provide support" among international organizations. The Moscow Times first reported the news Tuesday.

Asked about the hiring by a reporter Tuesday, Carney referred questions about it to the vice president's office and noted that it did not indicate that Obama was involved or approved of it.

"Hunter **BIDEN** and other members of the family are obviously private citizens and where they work is not an endorsement by the president or vice president," he said.

Kendra Barkoff, a spokeswoman for the vice president, did not respond to questions about whether Hunter **BIDEN** discussed the job with his father or sought his approval before accepting it.

Instead, she echoed Carney's earlier statement and referred questions to Hunter **BIDEN'S** New York law office.

"Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer," she said. "The vice president does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company. For any additional questions, I refer you to Hunter's office."

A spokeswoman for Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, a national law firm based in New York where Hunter **BIDEN** works, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Amid the escalating tensions between Ukraine and Russia in recent weeks, the European Commission, the executive body of the European Union, has tried to step in to try to prevent Russia from halting natural gas shipments to Ukraine unless it pays \$3.5 billion in debts.

Ukraine has so far refused to pay in protest of Moscow's decision to nearly double the price it charges Kiev for gas imports.

In the company's release, Alan Apter, the chairman of the company's board of directors, said: "The company's strategy is aimed at the strongest concentration of professional staff and the introduction of best corporate practices, and we're delighted that Mr. **BIDEN** is joining us to help us achieve these goals."

In addition to his work at the New York law firm, Hunter also is a co-founder and a managing partner of investment advisory company Rosemont Seneca Partners and serves as director of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, a network of 400 businesses, nonprofits and foreign policy experts, and the chairman of the advisory board for the National Democratic Institute, a non-profit that works to support democratic institutions and elections around the world.

National Journal

Another BIDEN Has Waded Into the Ukraine Crisis

By: Marina Koren / May 13, 2014

Joe **BIDEN** has been the White House's go-to guy during the Ukraine crisis, touring former Soviet republics and reassuring their concerned leaders. And now, he's not the only **BIDEN** involved in the region.

The vice president's youngest son, Hunter **BIDEN**, has been appointed head of legal affairs at Burisma Holdings, Ukraine's largest private gas producer, The Moscow Times reported Tuesday. Hunter described his new role in a statement on the company's website:

As a new member of the board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion, and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine.

The new gig joins several others on Hunter's extensive resume. He currently serves as managing partner at the Washington-based investment advisory company Rosemont Seneca Partners and counsel at the New York City-based law firm Boies Schiller Flexner. He is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's Foreign Service graduate program.

According to Bloomberg Businessweek, Burisma was founded in 2006 and "engages in oil-well drilling, production of liquefied natural gas, and undertaking geological studies." It is based in Cyprus. It owns several oil and gas companies in Ukraine, including in the southeastern city of Dnepropetrovsk.

Burisma hired another American—and another managing partner of Rosemont Seneca Partners—just last month. Devon Archer joined the company's board of directors to "focus on the interaction with current investors, as well as involving new investors from the United States," according to an April 22 press release from the company. Archer served as a senior adviser to John Kerry during his 2004 presidential campaign.

"Today Burisma Holdings reminds me of Exxon Mobil in its wake," Archer said in a recent interview posted on the company's website. "It has all the chances to be one of the biggest privately owned oil companies in the world."

Archer's work focuses heavily on energy independence for Ukraine, a topic that has received much attention in recent months. Ukraine is dependent on Russia for energy exports, and Moscow has pulled discount agreements during its ongoing standoff with Kiev. The addition of Hunter to the company masthead suggests Burisma is turning to U.S. talent—and money and name recognition—for protection against Russia. It also jibes with the Obama administration message that his father has been tasked with spreading.

The vice president's office released a statement Tuesday afternoon saying that the elder **BIDEN** "does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company."

It's unclear whether the entry of another **BIDEN** into the fray was meant to send a message to Moscow. But Russian President Vladimir Putin, eternally leery of American hands in eastern European business, is bound to notice.

International Business Times

Burisma Holdings: BIDEN'S Son Joins Ukraine's Top Private Gas Company By: Sophie Song/ May 13, 2014

The Ukrainian gas company that Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** son, Hunter **BIDEN**, just joined is a growing conglomerate that has been compared to "Exxon in its early days."

Burisma Holdings announced on Tuesday that the younger **BIDEN** will join the company as the head of its legal unit.

"The company's strategy is aimed at the strongest concentration of professional staff and the introduction of best corporate practices, and we're delighted that Mr. **BIDEN**

is joining us to help us achieve these goals,” Alan Apter, Burisma Holdings’ chairman of the board of directors, said in a statement featured as a top story on the company’s home page.

Burisma is a private oil and gas company founded in 2002, under joint activity agreements with Ukrainian state-owned producers, and quickly grew to become the largest private gas producer in Ukraine. The company’s output stood at an average daily output of 10.5 million cubic meters barrels of oil equivalent per day in September 2013, and could double that figure within two years. All of the company’s gas is sold to industrial customers in Ukraine.

BIDEN is not the only well-connected American to join the company - just a few weeks ago, when the vice president made an official trip to Ukraine, Burisma appointed one of Hunter’s business partners, Devon Archer, to its board. Archer is a wealthy investor and Democratic campaign fundraiser with long ties to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. Archer was an advisor to Kerry’s presidential campaign in 2004 and co-chaired Kerry’s National Finance Committee. Upon his appointment to Burisma, Archer said that the energy conglomerate reminded him of “Exxon in its early days.”

The company’s portfolio of licenses is well-diversified across all three of Ukraine’s key hydrocarbon basins – Dnieper-Donets, Carpathian and Azov-Kuban, and its fields are fully connected to the major gas pipelines in the country, allowing Burisma to keep the cost of production relatively efficient.

Natural gas is the largest energy source in Ukraine, accounting for 38 percent of total primary energy production during 2011. The country relies on Russia’s gas company Gasprom currently to satisfy its energy needs, but will aim to reduce that dependency in coming years, and Burisma is well-positioned to boost its share of the domestic market.

“As a new member of the Board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the Company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine,” **BIDEN** said regarding his new appointment.

Mediaite

Bad Ideas in Oligarchy: BIDEN’S Son Joins Board of Ukrainian Energy Company

By: Tina Nguyen / May 13, 2014

Today, Burisma Holdings, a company that describes itself as “Ukraine’s largest private gas producer,” announced the newest member of its Board of Directors: R. Hunter **BIDEN**, a seasoned lawyer with extensive international business experience, will be in charge of the company’s legal unit, as well as “provide support for the

Company among international organizations.” His end goal: to guide the company in a manner that will “contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine.”

BIDEN also has a prominent dad who’s part of an administration currently embroiled in a conflict with Russia over the Ukraine, so, that’s cool too.

And it’s not just that Joe **BIDEN** is his father, it’s that Joe **BIDEN** has openly pledged to help Ukraine gain “energy independence” from Russia while condemning the latter’s recent annexation of the Crimean peninsula. Really, this is an awkward situation.

While it’s normal for the powerful children of powerful people to be pulled onto the boards of vast multinational corporations, the fact that **BIDEN** happened to join a Ukrainian energy company in the midst of the conflict in Crimea is probably not a good idea. First, as the Russian media quickly proved, it immediately breeds speculation about Americans attempting to secure their energy interests in Ukraine. Second, the best way to spark accusations of “conflicts of interest” is by appointing a man to your board who is, literally, the spitting image of America’s Vice President.

Nevertheless, the White House shot down any notion that there was a conflict of interest, telling Business Insider: “Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer. The Vice President does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company.”

The White House has a point, but either way, this is an extremely uncomfortable situation that may likely lead to “escalating conflicts” and “disintegrating relationships between Russia and the US.”

Business Insider

Joe **BIDEN’S** Son Is Now On The Board Of One Of Ukraine's Biggest Gas Conglomerates

By: Brett Logiurato / May 13, 2014

Hunter **BIDEN**, the youngest son of Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, has been appointed to the board of directors of Ukraine’s largest private-gas producer.

The company, Burisma Holdings, announced **BIDEN’S** appointment on its website Tuesday. Burisma said **BIDEN** would be the new head of the company’s legal unit.

The White House shot down any notion of a conflict of interest with Hunter **BIDEN’S** appointment. In a statement provided to Business Insider, Joe **BIDEN** spokesperson Kendra Barkoff said Hunter’s appointment did not constitute an endorsement by the vice president.

“Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer. The Vice President does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company,” Barkoff said. “For any additional questions, I refer you to Hunter’s office.”

Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, the national law firm for which Hunter **BIDEN** serves as a counsel, did not respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

During the daily White House press briefing on Tuesday, press secretary Jay Carney said where Hunter **BIDEN** works "does not reflect an endorsement by the administration, by the president or vice president."

Hunter **BIDEN'S** appointment comes as the U.S. and much of the West has sought to help Ukraine wean off its dependence on Russia for oil and gas supplies. Last month during a trip to Kiev, the vice president pledged U.S. assistance in Ukraine's pursuit of energy independence from Russia. Ukraine and the West believe energy independence would serve as a major leverage point for Ukraine in its standoff with Russia.

In a statement released by Burisma, Hunter **BIDEN** said he believes the company will help strengthen Ukraine's floundering economy.

"Burisma's track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine. As a new member of the Board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the Company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine," Hunter **BIDEN** said in the statement.

Reuters

Turkey to ignore court order to pay compensation to Cyprus

By: Tulay Karadeniz and Ece Toksabay / May 13, 2014

Turkey has no plans to pay 90 million euros (\$124 million) to Cyprus as ordered by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Tuesday.

The money was ordered in compensation for Turkey's invasion of the island 40 years ago.

The Mediterranean island has been split since 1974 - when Turkey sent in troops after a brief Greek Cypriot coup staged by supporters of unification with Greece. It comprises a southern Greek Cypriot state recognized worldwide and a breakaway Turkish Cypriot entity in the north recognized only by Ankara.

Davutoglu said Turkey, which is seeking to join the European Union of which Cyprus is a member, sees no obligation to pay the compensation to a country that it does not formally recognize.

"In terms of the grounds of this ruling, its method and the fact that it is considering a country that Turkey does not recognize as a counterparty, we see no necessity to make this payment," Davutoglu told reporters.

"Yesterday's ECHR ruling consists of some legal contradictions and therefore we don't see it as at all binding, in terms of payment," he said.

Cyprus brought the case to the Strasbourg-based ECHR 20 years ago, demanding financial compensation over missing Greek Cypriots, the property of displaced people and violations of other human rights.

The ECHR is responsible for adjudication of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a signatory via its membership of the non-EU Council of Europe.

The court ruled largely in Nicosia's favor in 2001, but took more than a decade to decide on the sum to be paid, a delay Ankara, whose aspirations to join the European Union have long been frustrated by the issue, says is aimed at undermining a fresh peace drive on the island.

"We think that this ruling has been the biggest blow to this process. If a comprehensive solution is desired, then everyone should be aware of their responsibilities. When looked at the history of this problem, the timing of this case is meaningful," Davutoglu said.

The Cyprus question has defied a small army of mediators over the years, amid disputes between estranged Greeks and Turks over power-sharing arrangements and the claims of thousands of people from both sides uprooted by the conflict.

A new round of peace talks resumed in February. U.S. Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** is expected on the island on May 21-23 to try to spur on the process, Cypriot official sources said.

"We think **BIDEN'S** visit to the island will be important and we view the U.S. interest positively. Turkey is ready to discuss this in an open-hearted way," Davutoglu said.

AFP

Kerry eyes role in Cyprus peace process
May 13, 2014

US Secretary of State John Kerry is planning to dip his toes into yet another of the world's intractable conflicts, announcing Tuesday he will visit Cyprus in the coming weeks.

Meeting with Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides at the State Department, Kerry praised the Mediterranean island's current Greek Cypriot leadership for trying to reach a "long sought-after resolution" to its four-decade division.

"We have been working on the issue of trying to find a peace for Cyprus, a reunification of the island on a bizonal, bicomunal federation," Kerry said.

Communal fighting between Greek- and Turkish Cypriots broke out in 1964, culminating 10 years later in a Turkish invasion of the northern third after a coup engineered by Greece's military dictatorship aimed at reunifying the island.

Turkish Cypriot leaders in 1983 declared a breakaway state which is recognized only by Ankara.

The two sides relaunched peace talks aimed at reunifying Cyprus in February after a two-year hiatus, with the US believed to have played a major behind-the-scenes role in helping kickstart the resumed negotiations.

But several previous rounds of talks have failed, in part because of still-raw emotions on both sides of the UN-patrolled Green Line that divides the two communities.

Kerry said the United States was "very supportive" of the resumed talks held under the auspices of the UN.

"It's my hope to be in Nicosia and perhaps in Athens somewhere in the next weeks if not early months," announced the top US diplomat, who has made the search for a Middle East peace deal his personal quest.

He said of Cyprus that "we want to try to be helpful in this process" and pointed to "new economic opportunities in the energy sector."

Kasoulides, holding his second talks at the State Department in the past 12 months, said a resolution to the Cyprus problem "is very pertinent."

"We need the assistance and interest of the international community," he stressed, adding he believed "the circumstances are appropriate to push in order to find a settlement to this chronic" problem.

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** is to visit Cyprus later this month as part of efforts to find ways to counter what Washington sees as Russia's destabilizing actions in Ukraine.

Cyprus is seen in the White House as one of the European governments most resistant to toughening sanctions against Russia, including "sectoral" measures directly targeting Moscow's economy.

Russians have billions of dollars in euros deposited in banks in Cyprus, and the government's resistance to further sanctions threatens a joint US-European Union effort to preserve a united front in punishing Russia.

USA Today

A view from campus on sexual assaults

By: Emmaline Campbell / May 13, 2014

I know a student at the University of Chicago who was sexually assaulted by someone who lived in her dorm but did not report it for months out of fear that he would retaliate. I know another woman who was assaulted by her boyfriend and the college refused to take her complaint seriously.

When I started college four years ago, I thought I knew what campus life was all about. What I didn't know was that one in five female college students are sexually assaulted before they graduate — the estimate in a recent White House report. Sadly, that percentage hasn't changed in 20 years.

To better understand why this problem wasn't being taken more seriously at my college and so many others, I decided to explore the topic in my senior thesis. What I learned in my research and as a friend of assault victims was deeply disturbing.

On college campuses, it can be hard to find justice when students are assaulted by their classmates, their friends, or their boyfriends. While stories of assaults are plentiful, stories of perpetrators who have been held accountable are scarce.

At the University of Chicago, survivors of sexual assault have been turned away from pursuing disciplinary options against their perpetrators. The school's Disciplinary Committee has rejected other claims, leaving perpetrators on campus. Because of systematic problems, the university is under investigation by the Department of Education.

None of this should be surprising.

Colleges also can be in the difficult position of being both the prosecutor and defense attorney. If the perpetrator is also one of the college's students, the college must also provide him with assistance for the disciplinary process.

The federal agency that oversees this issue hasn't done any better. The Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR), which monitors university responses to sexual assault, has been unsuccessful because its method of dealing with universities that violate federal requirements is inherently flawed. Each investigation can take months, and it culminates in a "letter of finding" which reveals all of the violations found and all of the requirements the department will be imposing on the university to bring it into compliance.

These letters of finding could be a valuable resource for helping universities to learn from past mistakes, but they are not made readily available to the public. The department has refused to publish them online.

In light of the department's record of ineptitude, the White House's recent announcement that it would take on the issue is reason for hope. It has the clout to blow past the obstacles that have held back the Department of Education. The White House can speak directly to college students through social media, as it did last month with the YouTube video "1 is 2 Many," featuring celebrities such as actor Steve Carell and public figures such as Vice President Joe **BIDEN**.

The White House can also pressure the Department of Education to finally do its job, as evidenced by its directive that the department publish — for the first time — a list of all of the colleges currently under investigation.

Those are critical first steps, but even the power of the White House can only begin to chip away at the layers of bureaucracy that have worked to silence sexual assault.

As I was working on my thesis, I was frustrated that the system was so egregiously ineffective and thousands of college students were suffering as a result. It's great to see students speaking up and the White House getting involved, but we shouldn't be complacent. We all need to take advantage of this moment to keep this issue in the spotlight.

We can't let another 20 years go by without progress.

VPOUTS AFTERNOON PRESS MENTIONS

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Chicago Sun-Times

BIDEN headlining Durbin fundraisers today

By: Lynn Sweet / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** is headlining two fundraisers in downstate Alton on Tuesday afternoon to bolster the campaign war chests Sen. Dick Durbin D-Ill. and the Democratic

KPLR

Vice President BIDEN to speak at Archgrounds

By: Anthony Kiekow / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** will speak in downtown St. Louis Tuesday afternoon at 3:30.

Plains Dealer

Vice President BIDEN coming to Cleveland to promote transit program the GOP would pare back

By: Stephen Koff / May 13, 2014

When Vice President Joe **BIDEN** visits a Cleveland rapid transit station on Mayfield Rd. Wednesday, he'll promote a form of federal spending that in its broadest outlines has few opponents.

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Hunter **BIDEN**, the younger son of Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, is joining the board of a gas company operating in Ukraine, the company announced Tuesday, as the West seeks to help Ukraine wean itself off its dependence on Russian energy.

USA Today

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By: David Jackson / May 13, 2014

Vice President **BIDEN'S** son Hunter is joining the board of a gas company that operates in Ukraine.

Politico

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The Hill

WH: BIDEN'S son to Ukraine gas company isn't U.S. endorsement

By: Justin Sink / May 13, 2014

Ukraine's largest private gas producer has hired Vice President **BIDEN'S** youngest son, but White House press secretary Jay Carney insisted on Tuesday the move shouldn't be read as an official endorsement by the U.S. government.

[ABC](#)

BIDEN'S Son Gets Ukrainian Oil Company Gig

By: Jordyn Phelps / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** youngest son Hunter **BIDEN** has joined the board of directors of Ukraine's largest oil company at a time that the U.S. is urging Ukraine to develop energy independence from Russia and just days after the vice president visited Ukraine.

[Washington Times](#)

Joe BIDEN'S son Hunter to head legal unit at Ukraine's largest private gas company

By: Jessica Chasmar / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN'S** youngest son, Hunter, has been appointed head of legal affairs at Ukraine's largest private gas producer.

[Washington Examiner](#)

Jay Carney: Joe BIDEN'S son accepted position with Ukrainian gas company as 'private citizen'

By: Susan Crabtree / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** son, Hunter **BIDEN**, has accepted a position with Ukraine's largest private gas producer, but that in no way means the White House signed off on or endorses his hiring, presidential spokesman Jay Carney said Tuesday.

[National Journal](#)

Another BIDEN Has Waded Into the Ukraine Crisis

By: Marina Koren / May 13, 2014

Joe **BIDEN** has been the White House's go-to guy during the Ukraine crisis, touring former Soviet republics and reassuring their concerned leaders. And now, he's not the only **BIDEN** involved in the region.

[International Business Times](#)

Burisma Holdings: BIDEN'S Son Joins Ukraine's Top Private Gas Company

By: Sophie Song/ May 13, 2014

The Ukrainian gas company that Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** son, Hunter **BIDEN**, just joined is a growing conglomerate that has been compared to "Exxon in its early days."

[Mediaite](#)

Bad Ideas in Oligarchy: BIDEN'S Son Joins Board of Ukrainian Energy Company

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charge of the company's legal unit, as well as "provide support for the Company among international organizations." His end goal: to guide the company in a manner that will "contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine."

[Business Insider](#)

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[Reuters](#)

Turkey to ignore court order to pay compensation to Cyprus

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[AFP](#)

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[Chicago Sun-Times](#)

BIDEN headlining Durbin fundraisers today

By: Lynn Sweet / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** is headlining two fundraisers in downstate Alton on Tuesday afternoon to bolster the campaign war chests Sen. Dick Durbin D-Ill. and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Durbin is flying to Illinois and back to D.C. on **BIDEN'S** plane, with a stop in St. Louis for an official event with the vice president and

Interior Sec. Sally Jewell at the CityArchRiver project at the St. Louis Gateway Arch "to discuss the economy and highlight the progress of this future urban park site."

Last month, I reported **BIDEN** will be the draw at the Alton events for Durbin, who faces GOP nominee Illinois state Sen. Jim Oberweis R-Sugar Grove in November. DSCC chair Sen. Michael Bennet D-Col. will also be attending the high-dollar events.

I posted earlier that President Barack Obama returns to Chicago on May 22 to keynote major donor fundraising events for Durbin and the DSCC.

Today, **BIDEN** appears at a reception in Alton followed by a dinner at the home of John and Jayne Simmons.

The price points

*\$35,000 per couple to co-chair the dinner, with a photo opp.

*\$10,000 one ticket to the dinner

*\$5,000 to co-chair the general reception with a photo opp.

*\$1,000 one ticket to the reception.

KPLR

Vice President **BIDEN** to speak at Archgrounds

By: Anthony Kiekow / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** will speak in downtown St. Louis Tuesday afternoon at 3:30.

His speech is about the economy and construction projects.

He will visit the St. Louis Gateway Arch and get a look at the renovations going on in the area.

The \$380 Million City-Arch-River project will connect the Gateway Arch to downtown St. Louis.

The new date of completion for the project is 2016.

The project was funded through federal, state, local and private funds.

The Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will also be in attendance.

BIDEN'S speech could be a glimpse to his platform for a 2016 presidential run.

It would be **BIDEN'S** third attempt to win the office.

Plains Dealer

Vice President BIDEN coming to Cleveland to promote transit program the GOP would pare back

By: Stephen Koff / May 13, 2014

When Vice President Joe **BIDEN** visits a Cleveland rapid transit station on Mayfield Rd. Wednesday, he'll promote a form of federal spending that in its broadest outlines has few opponents.

Roads need paving. Bridges need fixing. Nearly everyone agrees.

But exactly what else counts as necessary for federal transportation spending, including a Red Line rapid station in Cleveland, is another matter.

If House of Representatives Republicans prevail, there could be much less money in the future for projects like the new Little Italy-University Circle Rapid Station, which is scheduled to open in 2015 and **BIDEN** will highlight Wednesday.

BIDEN'S Cleveland visit is part of a broader, week-long lobbying effort by the White House to draw attention to a desire to keep spending on improving infrastructure. The overarching issue – keeping the nation's roads and bridges open and safe – has wide consensus.

Even the biggest pro-business lobbying groups in Washington, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, are spending the week much like **BIDEN** and his boss, President Barack Obama. They're holding forums and other events to tell Congress that it's time for a major new transportation bill.

The current bill expires Sept. 30, and the Highway Trust Fund, which provides the money, could run short a month earlier.

Obama is going to the construction site of the new structure that will replace the Tappan Zee Bridge, spanning New York's Hudson River, the same day as **BIDEN'S** visit to the new Little Italy-University Circle Rapid Station.

But first, **BIDEN** today will go to St. Louis and highlight a pedestrian bridge being built over a highway that separates residents and tourists from the Gateway Arch. And on Friday, the White House says, Obama will meet with workers to discuss infrastructure around Washington, D.C.

The White House says that 65 percent of the nation's major roads are rated as being in "less than good" condition and one in four bridges require significant repairs or cannot handle today's traffic.

But agreement on need is not the same as agreement on where to get the money, or on how to spend it.

Most current federal transportation projects, including money that gets funneled to state highway departments, are funded through a tax on gasoline (18.4 cents per gallon) and diesel fuel (24.4 cents per gallon). Those taxes have not been raised since 1993, although from 1993 to 1997, 4.3 cents of the gasoline tax was used for deficit reduction before being redirected to transportation projects.

The static tax is just part of the problem. Cars also get better gasoline mileage since the last hike, and with inflation, the money doesn't buy as much steel and asphalt.

So Obama would replace the expiring transit bill, called Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, or MAP-21, with a \$302 billion, four-year bill. Obama's bill would supplement the gas tax with money from closing certain corporate tax provisions, including one that the White House and Democrats say has led to companies sheltering income overseas.

Republicans such as House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster have their own ideas -- both for annual transportation appropriations, which last a year at a time, and for a longer-term road-and-bridge improvement program.

"While Chairman Shuster respects that the Administration has put forward its own detailed proposal, the first time it has done so, he will not agree with it on all the details," said Justin Harclerode, Shuster's spokesman. "Thus far, the chairman has not elaborated on any potential differences or areas of agreement as the Transportation Committee continues to develop its surface transportation proposal."

The last big highway bill, MAP-21, authorized \$105 billion over two years, marking the first agreement on a large highway bill since 2005. A series of Band-Aid approaches, as the White House had put it, sufficed in the interim.

Many supporters, including Ohio Democratic U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, say that spending on roads helps the American economy, not only by providing road-building jobs but also by keeping the economy moving.

"Road and bridge projects don't just mean safer and less congested roads and construction jobs -- they also help attract new employers and economic development," Brown said in an email this week.

Brown said that more than 8 percent of Ohio's bridges require major repairs or replacement. He also noted the better known projects awaiting funding, such as Route 8 in Akron and the Brent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati.

Federal highway spending, however, has become a boondoggle in the eyes of some fiscal conservatives. This is where ideological groups split with those who have interests to protect.

Emily Goff, a transportation and infrastructure policy analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation, noted that MAP-21 funds go not only to build roads and bridges but also to build recreation trails and bicycle paths. These are important to groups pushing for transportation alternatives, but they siphon money that could go for even more roads and bridges to ease considerable traffic congestion, Goff says.

Yet MAP-21 requires states to set aside money for these kinds of alternatives, Goff says, to the tune of \$27.5 million this year in Pennsylvania and \$78.9 million in Texas.

"Identifying a connection between these activities and a federal highway program concerned with interstate highway system construction and maintenance proves difficult," Goff wrote in a recent Heritage blog post. "Indeed, there is nothing federal or highway about bicycle paths, landscaping, or any of these local activities."

The RTA station in Cleveland is a project that could raise a similar question, with its emphasis on meshing light rail with development around University Circle and Little Italy. The existing station, on Euclid Avenue at E. 120th Street, is considered functionally obsolete, so the new station will be placed several blocks south, at Mayfield Road at E. 119th Street.

About \$8.9 in funding comes from highly competitive U.S. Department of Transportation grants, according to the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority.

The grant money did not come MAP-21. Rather, it came from a program created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or the recession-era stimulus act. The transportation component of the stimulus act, called Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), gets money appropriated annually from Congress -- \$3.5 billion so far for 270 projects nationwide, including \$600 million this year, the White House says.

The TIGER program will end soon, too -- unless Obama and **BIDEN** get their way.

In that case, TIGER would become permanent, greatly expanded to \$5 billion over four years. The Obama White House wants to fold it into the next iteration of a four-year road-and-bridge bill.

House Republicans are unlikely to go along. The House appropriations subcommittee for transportation on May 6 recommended a lower sum of \$100 million for TIGER in 2015, and the GOP-led panel would further restrict TIGER grants to "projects that will address critical transportation needs, such as road, highway and bridge construction and improvement."

In other words, while money for the Little Italy-University Circle RTA station appears secure, future projects like it could go unfunded.

That is apparently why **BIDEN** is coming to Cleveland: to highlight what the money has helped build and point out what would have happened were it not there.

The White House would not comment on this in advance of the vice president's trip. In an email, White House spokesman Keith Maley said, "Members of both parties have put forward their own ideas on the Hill, and the most important thing is that we pass a long-term bill that creates jobs and provides certainty for cities, states, and businesses. It's time to get the job done."

Associated Press

VP **BIDEN**'S son joins Ukraine gas company's board May 13, 2014

Hunter **BIDEN**, the younger son of Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, is joining the board of a gas company operating in Ukraine, the company announced Tuesday, as the West seeks to help Ukraine wean itself off its dependence on Russian energy.

Burisma Holdings said **BIDEN**, an attorney and chairman of the board of the World Food Program USA, will head the Burisma's legal unit, and will also seek support for the company among international organizations.

"I believe that my assistance in consulting the company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine," **BIDEN** said in a statement released by the company.

The announcement comes as Ukraine and the U.S. are looking to decrease Ukraine's reliance on Russian energy amid threats from Moscow to cut Ukraine off if it doesn't pay massive debts. Western countries believe Russia would have less leverage in the crisis with Ukraine if Europe was less dependent on Russian gas.

"Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer," said **BIDEN** spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff. "The vice president does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company."

Still, Vice President **BIDEN** has spoken frequently about the need to increase Ukraine's energy independence, including during a recent visit to Kiev. He's also a key interlocutor for the Obama administration with Kiev and other anxious nations in the region as the crisis there has unfolded.

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USA Today

BIDEN'S son joins board of Ukraine gas company

By: David Jackson / May 13, 2014

Vice President **BIDEN'S** son Hunter is joining the board of a gas company that operates in Ukraine.

Burisma Holdings, Ukraine's largest private gas producer, said Hunter **BIDEN** -- an attorney -- will be in charge of its legal unit and help the company with other international organizations.

"I believe that my assistance in consulting the Company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine," the younger **BIDEN** said in a statement.

The **BIDEN** appointment comes as the United States and allied nations try to help Ukraine reduce its dependence on Russian energy by developing other sources.

Kendra Barkoff, spokesperson for Vice President **BIDEN**, said that "Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer. The Vice President does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company."

Politico

Hunter BIDEN to Ukraine gas board

By: Lucy McCalmont / May 13, 2014

Hunter **BIDEN**, the younger son of Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, will be joining Ukraine's largest private gas producer, the company announced in a statement

"The company's strategy is aimed at the strongest concentration of professional staff and the introduction of best corporate practices, and we're delighted that Mr. **BIDEN** is joining us to help us achieve these goals," Alan Apter, Burisma Holdings' chairman of the board of directors, said in a statement, which was reported by The Moscow Times on Tuesday.

BIDEN, joining the board, will be in charge of the legal unit, the company said and will provide support for Burisma Holdings "among international organizations."

BIDEN said the company will help strengthen Ukraine's economy.

"Burisma's track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine," **BIDEN** said in a statement. "As a new member of the Board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the Company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine."

The country has faced rising tensions with Russia and on Monday, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said the U.S. would not recognize a referendum held Sunday in Eastern Ukraine aiming for self-rule in the region, calling it "illegal" under Ukrainian law.

Vice President **BIDEN** also expressed support for Ukraine, when he visited the country in April and slammed Russia for its role in the annexation of Crimea.

The Hill

WH: BIDEN'S son to Ukraine gas company isn't U.S. endorsement

By: Justin Sink / May 13, 2014

Ukraine's largest private gas producer has hired Vice President **BIDEN'S** youngest son, but White House press secretary Jay Carney insisted on Tuesday the move shouldn't be read as an official endorsement by the U.S. government.

"Hunter **BIDEN** and other members of the **BIDEN** family are obviously private citizens, and where they work does not reflect an endorsement by the administration or by the vice president or president," Carney told reporters.

The vice president's office also defended the hire.

"Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer. The Vice President does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company. For any additional questions, I refer you to Hunter's office," said Kendra Barkoff, spokeswoman for Vice President **BIDEN**.

Burisma, which produces the equivalent of 10,500 barrels of oil daily, announced **BIDEN'S** hire in a statement earlier Tuesday.

"The company's strategy is aimed at the strongest concentration of professional staff and the introduction of best corporate practices, and we're delighted that Mr. **BIDEN** is joining us to help us achieve these goals," said Alan Apter, Burisma Holdings' chairman of the board of directors.

The younger **BIDEN**, for his part, said he believed his legal and corporate advice would "contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine."

“Burisma’s track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine,” Hunter **BIDEN** said.

But the hire could raise ethical questions — and diplomatic headaches — for the White House. During a visit to Kiev last month, the vice president discussed energy security with Ukraine’s leaders, including ways the country could produce its own domestic production of natural gas.

“Imagine where you’d be today if you were able to tell Russia: keep your gas. It would be a very different world,” the vice president told Ukrainian lawmakers.

The hire also came a day after Russian energy giant Gazprom threatened to halt natural gas shipments to Ukraine unless the country prepays for its energy. That announcement has sparked fears that energy costs could strain Ukraine’s fragile economy.

ABC

BIDEN’S Son Gets Ukrainian Oil Company Gig

By: Jordyn Phelps / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN’S** youngest son Hunter **BIDEN** has joined the board of directors of Ukraine’s largest oil company at a time that the U.S. is urging Ukraine to develop energy independence from Russia and just days after the vice president visited Ukraine.

The vice president’s office and the White House rejected any suggestion that there was a conflict of interest.

“Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer,” Vice President **BIDEN’S** spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff told ABC News. “The vice president does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company.”

White House spokesman Jay Carney said, “Hunter **BIDEN** and other members of the **BIDEN** family are obviously private citizens and where they work ... does not reflect an endorsement by the administration or by the vice president or president.”

According to a press release from the oil company, Burisma Holdings, **BIDEN** will help the company manage its relationships with “international organizations,” in addition to overseeing the company’s legal unit.

“Burisma’s track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine,” Hunter **BIDEN** said in a statement.

“As a new member of the Board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine,” he said.

BIDEN, a graduate of Yale Law School, is a counsel to the New York-based law firm Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP and serves as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service

Washington Times

Joe **BIDEN’S** son Hunter to head legal unit at Ukraine’s largest private gas company

By: Jessica Chasmar / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN’S** youngest son, Hunter, has been appointed head of legal affairs at Ukraine’s largest private gas producer.

Burisma Holdings said in a statement that Hunter **BIDEN** will be in charge of the company’s legal unit and will provide support for the company among international organizations.

“Burisma’s track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine,” Mr. **BIDEN** said.

“As a new member of the Board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the Company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine,” he said.

White House press secretary Jay Carney said Tuesday that Mr. **BIDEN’S** new position “does not reflect an endorsement by the administration,” Time magazine’s Zeke Miller reported.

The announcement comes just one day after Russia’s state energy giant Gazprom threatened to halt natural gas shipments to Ukraine unless the country pays in advance for supplies.

The vice president has condemned Russia for its intervention in Ukraine and has pledged to support efforts to reduce its dependency on Russian energy, The Moscow Times reported.

Washington Examiner

Jay Carney: Joe BIDEN'S son accepted position with Ukrainian gas company as 'private citizen'

By: Susan Crabtree / May 13, 2014

Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** son, Hunter **BIDEN**, has accepted a position with Ukraine's largest private gas producer, but that in no way means the White House signed off on or endorses his hiring, presidential spokesman Jay Carney said Tuesday.

Burisma Holdings announced Tuesday that Hunter **BIDEN**, **BIDEN'S** youngest son, would serve on the company's board of directors.

The company in a news release on its website said Hunter **BIDEN** will be in charge of the Burisma's legal unit and will "provide support" among international organizations. The Moscow Times first reported the news Tuesday.

Asked about the hiring by a reporter Tuesday, Carney referred questions about it to the vice president's office and noted that it did not indicate that Obama was involved or approved of it.

"Hunter **BIDEN** and other members of the family are obviously private citizens and where they work is not an endorsement by the president or vice president," he said.

Kendra Barkoff, a spokeswoman for the vice president, did not respond to questions about whether Hunter **BIDEN** discussed the job with his father or sought his approval before accepting it.

Instead, she echoed Carney's earlier statement and referred questions to Hunter **BIDEN'S** New York law office.

"Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer," she said. "The vice president does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company. For any additional questions, I refer you to Hunter's office."

A spokeswoman for Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, a national law firm based in New York where Hunter **BIDEN** works, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Amid the escalating tensions between Ukraine and Russia in recent weeks, the European Commission, the executive body of the European Union, has tried to step in to try to prevent Russia from halting natural gas shipments to Ukraine unless it pays \$3.5 billion in debts.

Ukraine has so far refused to pay in protest of Moscow's decision to nearly double the price it charges Kiev for gas imports.

In the company's release, Alan Apter, the chairman of the company's board of directors, said: "The company's strategy is aimed at the strongest concentration of professional staff and the introduction of best corporate practices, and we're delighted that Mr. **BIDEN** is joining us to help us achieve these goals."

In addition to his work at the New York law firm, Hunter also is a co-founder and a managing partner of investment advisory company Rosemont Seneca Partners and serves as director of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, a network of 400 businesses, nonprofits and foreign policy experts, and the chairman of the advisory board for the National Democratic Institute, a non-profit that works to support democratic institutions and elections around the world.

National Journal

Another BIDEN Has Waded Into the Ukraine Crisis

By: Marina Koren / May 13, 2014

Joe **BIDEN** has been the White House's go-to guy during the Ukraine crisis, touring former Soviet republics and reassuring their concerned leaders. And now, he's not the only **BIDEN** involved in the region.

The vice president's youngest son, Hunter **BIDEN**, has been appointed head of legal affairs at Burisma Holdings, Ukraine's largest private gas producer, The Moscow Times reported Tuesday. Hunter described his new role in a statement on the company's website:

As a new member of the board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion, and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine.

The new gig joins several others on Hunter's extensive resume. He currently serves as managing partner at the Washington-based investment advisory company Rosemont Seneca Partners and counsel at the New York City-based law firm Boies Schiller Flexner. He is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's Foreign Service graduate program.

According to Bloomberg Businessweek, Burisma was founded in 2006 and "engages in oil-well drilling, production of liquefied natural gas, and undertaking geological studies." It is based in Cyprus. It owns several oil and gas companies in Ukraine, including in the southeastern city of Dnepropetrovsk.

Burisma hired another American—and another managing partner of Rosemont Seneca Partners—just last month. Devon Archer joined the company's board of directors to "focus on the interaction with current investors, as well as involving new investors from

the United States," according to an April 22 press release from the company. Archer served as a senior adviser to John Kerry during his 2004 presidential campaign.

"Today Burisma Holdings reminds me of Exxon Mobil in its wake," Archer said in a recent interview posted on the company's website. "It has all the chances to be one of the biggest privately owned oil companies in the world."

Archer's work focuses heavily on energy independence for Ukraine, a topic that has received much attention in recent months. Ukraine is dependent on Russia for energy exports, and Moscow has pulled discount agreements during its ongoing standoff with Kiev. The addition of Hunter to the company masthead suggests Burisma is turning to U.S. talent—and money and name recognition—for protection against Russia. It also jibes with the Obama administration message that his father has been tasked with spreading.

The vice president's office released a statement Tuesday afternoon saying that the elder **BIDEN** "does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company."

It's unclear whether the entry of another **BIDEN** into the fray was meant to send a message to Moscow. But Russian President Vladimir Putin, eternally leery of American hands in eastern European business, is bound to notice.

International Business Times

Burisma Holdings: **BIDEN'S** Son Joins Ukraine's Top Private Gas Company

By: Sophie Song/ May 13, 2014

The Ukrainian gas company that Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** son, Hunter **BIDEN**, just joined is a growing conglomerate that has been compared to "Exxon in its early days."

Burisma Holdings announced on Tuesday that the younger **BIDEN** will join the company as the head of its legal unit.

"The company's strategy is aimed at the strongest concentration of professional staff and the introduction of best corporate practices, and we're delighted that Mr. **BIDEN** is joining us to help us achieve these goals," Alan Apter, Burisma Holdings' chairman of the board of directors, said in a statement featured as a top story on the company's home page.

Burisma is a private oil and gas company founded in 2002, under joint activity agreements with Ukrainian state-owned producers, and quickly grew to become the largest private gas producer in Ukraine. The company's output stood at an average daily output of 10.5 million cubic meters barrels of oil equivalent per day in September 2013, and could double that figure within two years. All of the company's gas is sold to industrial customers in Ukraine.

BIDEN is not the only well-connected American to join the company - just a few weeks ago, when the vice president made an official trip to Ukraine, Burisma appointed one of Hunter's business partners, Devon Archer, to its board. Archer is a wealthy investor and Democratic campaign fundraiser with long ties to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. Archer was an advisor to Kerry's presidential campaign in 2004 and co-chaired Kerry's National Finance Committee. Upon his appointment to Burisma, Archer said that the energy conglomerate reminded him of "Exxon in its early days."

The company's portfolio of licenses is well-diversified across all three of Ukraine's key hydrocarbon basins – Dnieper-Donets, Carpathian and Azov-Kuban, and its fields are fully connected to the major gas pipelines in the country, allowing Burisma to keep the cost of production relatively efficient.

Natural gas is the largest energy source in Ukraine, accounting for 38 percent of total primary energy production during 2011. The country relies on Russia's gas company Gazprom currently to satisfy its energy needs, but will aim to reduce that dependency in coming years, and Burisma is well-positioned to boost its share of the domestic market.

"As a new member of the Board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the Company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine," **BIDEN** said regarding his new appointment.

Mediaite

Bad Ideas in Oligarchy: **BIDEN'S** Son Joins Board of Ukrainian Energy Company By: Tina Nguyen / May 13, 2014

Today, Burisma Holdings, a company that describes itself as "Ukraine's largest private gas producer," announced the newest member of its Board of Directors: R. Hunter **BIDEN**, a seasoned lawyer with extensive international business experience, will be in charge of the company's legal unit, as well as "provide support for the Company among international organizations." His end goal: to guide the company in a manner that will "contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine."

BIDEN also has a prominent dad who's part of an administration currently embroiled in a conflict with Russia over the Ukraine, so, that's cool too.

And it's not just that Joe **BIDEN** is his father, it's that Joe **BIDEN** has openly pledged to help Ukraine gain "energy independence" from Russia while condemning the latter's recent annexation of the Crimean peninsula. Really, this is an awkward situation.

While it's normal for the powerful children of powerful people to be pulled onto the boards of vast multinational corporations, the fact that **BIDEN** happened to join a Ukrainian energy company in the midst of the conflict in Crimea is probably not a good

idea. First, as the Russian media quickly proved, it immediately breeds speculation about Americans attempting to secure their energy interests in Ukraine. Second, the best way to spark accusations of “conflicts of interest” is by appointing a man to your board who is, literally, the spitting image of America’s Vice President.

Nevertheless, the White House shot down any notion that there was a conflict of interest, telling Business Insider: “Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer. The Vice President does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company.”

The White House has a point, but either way, this is an extremely uncomfortable situation that may likely lead to “escalating conflicts” and “disintegrating relationships between Russia and the US.”

Business Insider

Joe **BIDEN’S** Son Is Now On The Board Of One Of Ukraine's Biggest Gas Conglomerates

By: Brett Logiurato / May 13, 2014

Hunter **BIDEN**, the youngest son of Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, has been appointed to the board of directors of Ukraine's largest private-gas producer.

The company, Burisma Holdings, announced **BIDEN’S** appointment on its website Tuesday. Burisma said **BIDEN** would be the new head of the company's legal unit.

The White House shot down any notion of a conflict of interest with Hunter **BIDEN’S** appointment. In a statement provided to Business Insider, Joe **BIDEN** spokesperson Kendra Barkoff said Hunter's appointment did not constitute an endorsement by the vice president.

"Hunter **BIDEN** is a private citizen and a lawyer. The Vice President does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company," Barkoff said. "For any additional questions, I refer you to Hunter’s office."

Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, the national law firm for which Hunter **BIDEN** serves as a counsel, did not respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

During the daily White House press briefing on Tuesday, press secretary Jay Carney said where Hunter **BIDEN** works "does not reflect an endorsement by the administration, by the president or vice president."

Hunter **BIDEN’S** appointment comes as the U.S. and much of the West has sought to help Ukraine wean off its dependence on Russia for oil and gas supplies. Last month during a trip to Kiev, the vice president pledged U.S. assistance in Ukraine's pursuit of energy independence from Russia. Ukraine and the West believe energy independence would serve as a major leverage point for Ukraine in its standoff with Russia.

In a statement released by Burisma, Hunter **BIDEN** said he believes the company will help strengthen Ukraine's floundering economy.

"Burisma's track record of innovations and industry leadership in the field of natural gas means that it can be a strong driver of a strong economy in Ukraine. As a new member of the Board, I believe that my assistance in consulting the Company on matters of transparency, corporate governance and responsibility, international expansion and other priorities will contribute to the economy and benefit the people of Ukraine," Hunter **BIDEN** said in the statement.

Reuters

Turkey to ignore court order to pay compensation to Cyprus

By: Tulay Karadeniz and Ece Toksabay / May 13, 2014

Turkey has no plans to pay 90 million euros (\$124 million) to Cyprus as ordered by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Tuesday.

The money was ordered in compensation for Turkey's invasion of the island 40 years ago.

The Mediterranean island has been split since 1974 - when Turkey sent in troops after a brief Greek Cypriot coup staged by supporters of unification with Greece. It comprises a southern Greek Cypriot state recognized worldwide and a breakaway Turkish Cypriot entity in the north recognized only by Ankara.

Davutoglu said Turkey, which is seeking to join the European Union of which Cyprus is a member, sees no obligation to pay the compensation to a country that it does not formally recognize.

"In terms of the grounds of this ruling, its method and the fact that it is considering a country that Turkey does not recognize as a counterparty, we see no necessity to make this payment," Davutoglu told reporters.

"Yesterday's ECHR ruling consists of some legal contradictions and therefore we don't see it as at all binding, in terms of payment," he said.

Cyprus brought the case to the Strasbourg-based ECHR 20 years ago, demanding financial compensation over missing Greek Cypriots, the property of displaced people and violations of other human rights.

The ECHR is responsible for adjudication of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a signatory via its membership of the non-EU Council of Europe.

The court ruled largely in Nicosia's favor in 2001, but took more than a decade to decide on the sum to be paid, a delay Ankara, whose aspirations to join the European Union have long been frustrated by the issue, says is aimed at undermining a fresh peace drive on the island.

"We think that this ruling has been the biggest blow to this process. If a comprehensive solution is desired, then everyone should be aware of their responsibilities. When looked at the history of this problem, the timing of this case is meaningful," Davutoglu said.

The Cyprus question has defied a small army of mediators over the years, amid disputes between estranged Greeks and Turks over power-sharing arrangements and the claims of thousands of people from both sides uprooted by the conflict.

A new round of peace talks resumed in February. U.S. Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** is expected on the island on May 21-23 to try to spur on the process, Cypriot official sources said.

"We think **BIDEN'S** visit to the island will be important and we view the U.S. interest positively. Turkey is ready to discuss this in an open-hearted way," Davutoglu said.

AFP

Kerry eyes role in Cyprus peace process May 13, 2014

US Secretary of State John Kerry is planning to dip his toes into yet another of the world's intractable conflicts, announcing Tuesday he will visit Cyprus in the coming weeks.

Meeting with Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides at the State Department, Kerry praised the Mediterranean island's current Greek Cypriot leadership for trying to reach a "long sought-after resolution" to its four-decade division.

"We have been working on the issue of trying to find a peace for Cyprus, a reunification of the island on a bizonal, bicomunal federation," Kerry said.

Communal fighting between Greek- and Turkish Cypriots broke out in 1964, culminating 10 years later in a Turkish invasion of the northern third after a coup engineered by Greece's military dictatorship aimed at reunifying the island.

Turkish Cypriot leaders in 1983 declared a breakaway state which is recognized only by Ankara.

The two sides relaunched peace talks aimed at reunifying Cyprus in February after a two-year hiatus, with the US believed to have played a major behind-the-scenes role in helping kickstart the resumed negotiations.

But several previous rounds of talks have failed, in part because of still-raw emotions on both sides of the UN-patrolled Green Line that divides the two communities.

Kerry said the United States was "very supportive" of the resumed talks held under the auspices of the UN.

"It's my hope to be in Nicosia and perhaps in Athens somewhere in the next weeks if not early months," announced the top US diplomat, who has made the search for a Middle East peace deal his personal quest.

He said of Cyprus that "we want to try to be helpful in this process" and pointed to "new economic opportunities in the energy sector."

Kasoulides, holding his second talks at the State Department in the past 12 months, said a resolution to the Cyprus problem "is very pertinent."

"We need the assistance and interest of the international community," he stressed, adding he believed "the circumstances are appropriate to push in order to find a settlement to this chronic" problem.

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** is to visit Cyprus later this month as part of efforts to find ways to counter what Washington sees as Russia's destabilizing actions in Ukraine.

Cyprus is seen in the White House as one of the European governments most resistant to toughening sanctions against Russia, including "sectoral" measures directly targeting Moscow's economy.

Russians have billions of dollars in euros deposited in banks in Cyprus, and the government's resistance to further sanctions threatens a joint US-European Union effort to preserve a united front in punishing Russia.

USA Today

A view from campus on sexual assaults

By: Emmaline Campbell / May 13, 2014

I know a student at the University of Chicago who was sexually assaulted by someone who lived in her dorm but did not report it for months out of fear that he would retaliate. I know another woman who was assaulted by her boyfriend and the college refused to take her complaint seriously.

When I started college four years ago, I thought I knew what campus life was all about. What I didn't know was that one in five female college students are sexually assaulted before they graduate — the estimate in a recent White House report. Sadly, that percentage hasn't changed in 20 years.

To better understand why this problem wasn't being taken more seriously at my college and so many others, I decided to explore the topic in my senior thesis. What I learned in my research and as a friend of assault victims was deeply disturbing.

On college campuses, it can be hard to find justice when students are assaulted by their classmates, their friends, or their boyfriends. While stories of assaults are plentiful, stories of perpetrators who have been held accountable are scarce.

At the University of Chicago, survivors of sexual assault have been turned away from pursuing disciplinary options against their perpetrators. The school's Disciplinary Committee has rejected other claims, leaving perpetrators on campus. Because of systematic problems, the university is under investigation by the Department of Education.

None of this should be surprising.

Colleges also can be in the difficult position of being both the prosecutor and defense attorney. If the perpetrator is also one of the college's students, the college must also provide him with assistance for the disciplinary process.

The federal agency that oversees this issue hasn't done any better. The Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR), which monitors university responses to sexual assault, has been unsuccessful because its method of dealing with universities that violate federal requirements is inherently flawed. Each investigation can take months, and it culminates in a "letter of finding" which reveals all of the violations found and all of the requirements the department will be imposing on the university to bring it into compliance.

These letters of finding could be a valuable resource for helping universities to learn from past mistakes, but they are not made readily available to the public. The department has refused to publish them online.

In light of the department's record of ineptitude, the White House's recent announcement that it would take on the issue is reason for hope. It has the clout to blow past the obstacles that have held back the Department of Education. The White House can speak directly to college students through social media, as it did last month with the YouTube video "1 is 2 Many," featuring celebrities such as actor Steve Carell and public figures such as Vice President Joe **BIDEN**.

The White House can also pressure the Department of Education to finally do its job, as evidenced by its directive that the department publish — for the first time — a list of all of the colleges currently under investigation.

Those are critical first steps, but even the power of the White House can only begin to chip away at the layers of bureaucracy that have worked to silence sexual assault.

As I was working on my thesis, I was frustrated that the system was so egregiously ineffective and thousands of college students were suffering as a result. It's great to see students speaking up and the White House getting involved, but we shouldn't be complacent. We all need to take advantage of this moment to keep this issue in the spotlight.

We can't let another 20 years go by without progress.