

Filimonov, who has been embroiled in a series of controversies in recent weeks. Political analysts and anonymously run Telegram channels [say](#) the controversies are connected to an alleged [conflict](#) between Filimonov and the industrial giant Severstal.

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Earlier this month, 120 regional members of the ruling United Russia party submitted a formal [complaint](#) to President Vladimir Putin, criticizing Filimonov’s leadership. Their grievances included his government reshuffles in the city of Cherepovets and his opposition to the “mass influx” of migrant workers at the Cherepovets Steel Mill, a key Severstal asset.

Filimonov has openly criticized Severstal chairman Alexei Mordashov for what he described as insufficient investment in the region and environmental neglect in Cherepovets, the business newspaper Vedomosti [reported](#) last week. Severstal has denied the accusations.

As of Wednesday, more than 20,000 people had [signed](#) a Change.org petition urging Putin to dismiss Filimonov over what they called his “ineffective management, injustice and tyranny.”

Putin appointed Filimonov as Vologda’s governor in 2023, and he was formally elected to a five-year term in September.

Political analyst Dmitry Fetisov [said](#) he expects Alexeyev and Bocharov to testify against Filimonov.

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