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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20515-6015

March 24, 2015

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TELEPHONE
(703) 225-2771

The Honorable Barack Obama
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Several members of the House Appropriations Committee recently travelled to Kiev, Ukraine and met with President Poroshenko to discuss the war in Ukraine. In a word Mr. President, the situation there is alarming. It is very clear that President Putin is aware that time is on his side with respect to his desire to reclaim Ukraine as part of Russia. President Poroshenko needs help for Ukraine and he needs it now.

Russia has clearly invaded Ukraine using the façade of an insurgency for plausible deniability. They are arming personnel, providing artillery and intelligence support, and managing the command and control to use Ukraine as a test bed for a new type of warfare relying on state sponsored insurgents to carry out the campaign. Additionally, Russia is overwhelmingly winning the communication battle in Europe and Ukraine itself and is showing success in dividing Ukraine's neighbors. Whether or not these neighbors actually believe that Russia will stop with a successful occupation of Ukraine is another thing, but for now they are siding with Russia.

We are disturbed by the recent news that a training program for Ukrainian soldiers is being delayed by the Administration. The reason given for the delay is that the training may possibly jeopardize the tenuous cease fire. We believe that the Russians have already jeopardized the cease fire as it is apparent that

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they have consolidated their positions within Ukraine during the cease fire. President Poroshenko singled out this training effort as extremely important to his nation and is anxious for it to begin. We urge you to reconsider your position on this issue.

Mr. President, we believe there are several courses of action available to you to provide assistance to Ukraine in the near term. First, you should designate Ukraine as a Major Non NATO Ally. Second, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015 contains \$175 million within the European Reassurance Initiative Fund specifically to provide aid to Ukraine and the Baltic States. We request that a substantial amount of funding be reprogrammed to that fund thereby increasing the amount of funding available for assistance.

We believe the situation in Ukraine is a matter of critical importance to the national security of the United States. The world is watching with intense interest how our Nation reacts to the war in Ukraine today. We are sure you are aware Mr. President, that Russia is not just acting in its near term best interest, but is looking many years into the future. It is important that we do the same.

More than ever, time is of the essence. We look forward to your prompt attention to this matter.

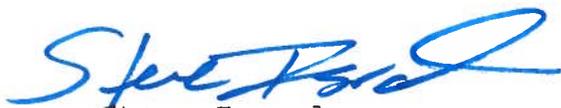
Sincerely,



Peter Visclosky
Ranking Member
Defense Subcommittee



Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Kay Granger
Member of Congress

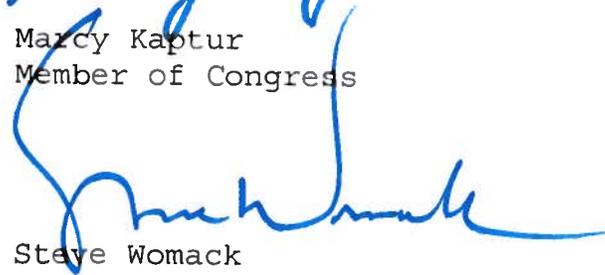
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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