

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 27, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Russia has already seized and annexed the Ukrainian province of the Crimea. Not satisfied with this unilateral act of aggression against a neighboring country whose borders it guaranteed when the Ukraine agreed to give up its nuclear arsenal by signing the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, Russia is actively inciting and supporting irregular separatist military forces in the eastern portion of the Ukraine. These forces' objective is to tear the Ukraine apart and create either a "rump state" beholden to Russia or to ultimately annex yet more of the Ukraine to Russia. Ominously, Russia continues to support these separatists despite the imposition of modest economic sanctions and wide spread international condemnation.

Prompt and effective measures must be taken to demonstrate the resolve of the United States to stop these Russian acts in violation of international norms and of the Budapest Memorandum. Unless we do so, we will have allowed a dangerous precedent for our future relations with our allies and neighbors not only in Europe but internationally. We urge action before it is too late.

So while we applaud your decisions to impose some economic sanctions to date as well as the provision of limited amounts of non-lethal aid to the Ukraine, we now urge you to take additional steps demonstrating further U.S. resolve and support for the embattled legitimate and democratically elected government of the Ukraine. Quite simply, we do not believe the Ukrainian government forces can successfully end this separatist threat until the Russians realize that the Ukrainian people and government have not only the will but also the means to prevail. Accordingly we urge you to immediately and thoughtfully provide the Ukrainian government with appropriate defensive weapons. We also urge you to share appropriate intelligence with the Ukrainian government so that it may operate one step ahead of the separatists.

We must remain resolute in the protection of Ukraine's sovereignty. Russia's efforts to either dismember the Ukraine or to return it to a vassal state under Russian control must not succeed. We must stand for the Ukrainian people, for their democratically elected government, and honor our commitments under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994. A precedent allowing Russia to succeed in this unlawful unilateral expansion would be catastrophic for U.S. foreign policy, for our European allies, and most of all, for the Ukraine.

The crisis in Ukraine is unmistakable and the consequences of a failure to act will be severe. We must act decisively and with urgency to provide support to the Ukrainian people mired in this conflict. Please take immediate action to provide the Ukraine with this urgently needed assistance and support so that it can swiftly end this conflict, restore its borders, and critically, to send a clear message to Russia that any current and future acts to alter borders or destabilize its neighbors will face certain, swift, and effective opposition by the United States.

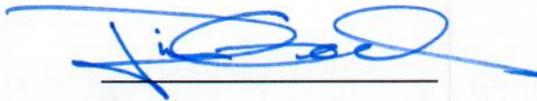
Sincerely,



MIKE COFFMAN  
Member of Congress



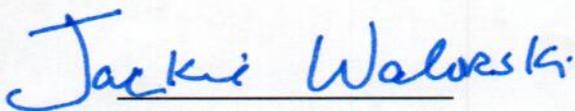
HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON  
Member of Congress



JIM GERLACH  
Member of Congress



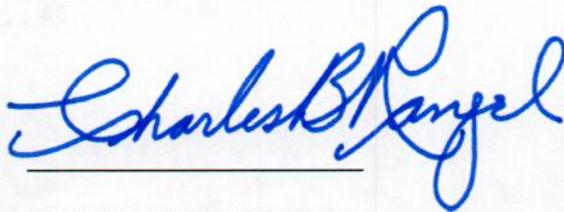
BRADLEY BYRNE  
Member of Congress



JACKIE WALORSKI  
Member of Congress



STEVE STIVERS  
Member of Congress



CHARLES B. RANGEL  
Member of Congress