

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2014

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

As we approach the 2014 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit hosted by the United Kingdom, we encourage your continued efforts to make enlargement a key priority for the United States and the Alliance. Furthermore, we believe the United States should continue its close partnerships with the aspirant countries of Georgia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as with other countries in Central and Eastern Europe which seek closer relations with the U.S. and NATO. In particular, we urge you to support membership for Montenegro and Macedonia at this year's summit, to encourage continued progress in implementing the Membership Action Plan (MAP) for Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to advocate granting a Membership Action Plan (MAP) to Georgia. Additionally, we urge you to work with our NATO allies to ensure that Kosovo – which in February celebrated the sixth anniversary of its independence and is a staunch supporter of the United States – joins its neighbors as a member of the Partnership for Peace (PfP), and has a pathway for eventual membership in the Alliance.

In the 25 years following the end of the Cold War, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have sought independence, democracy, and partnerships with the United States and NATO. Through various collaborative efforts – many led by NATO – meaningful reform initiatives brought about great economic growth, more accountable governance, and the rule of law for millions of Europeans. And for the past two decades, NATO's spirit of collective security has been the bedrock of stability in the region.

It is our firm belief that the genuine prospect of NATO membership for the current group of aspirant states will further strengthen democratic institutions and values and increase stability and security in the region.

In contrast, failure to recognize and reward their significant efforts could discourage aspirant countries from pursuing further democratic reforms and weaken their commitment to partnering with Euro-Atlantic institutions. In addition, the Ukrainian government's recent decision not to sign a long awaited association agreement with the EU – in defiance of the popular preference for European integration – raises concerns about back-sliding on democracy and the possibility that states in the region will be pressured by outside forces seeking to divide the continent and undermine the vision of a Europe whole, free, and at peace.

The United States and its Allies have reached a critical point in which action is necessary to ensure NATO's future relevance and viability. As we approach the 2014 Summit, we stand ready to work with you to promote the accession of Montenegro and Macedonia to the Alliance, and to advance the membership prospects of Georgia and Bosnia-Herzegovina through the MAP process. In addition, we would like to work with you to ensure that other states in the region, such as Kosovo, which seek closer relations with Euro-Atlantic institutions, have a clear path toward integration with the Alliance.

We appreciate your continued commitment to NATO and await your response on the issue of enlargement at the 2014 summit.

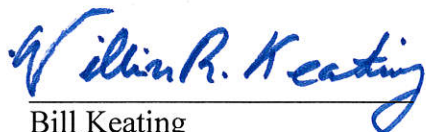
Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



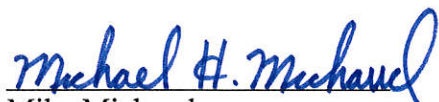
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Bill Keating
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Mike Michaud
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Tom Cotton
Member of Congress



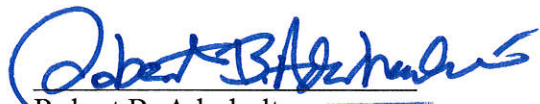
Gary Peters
Member of Congress



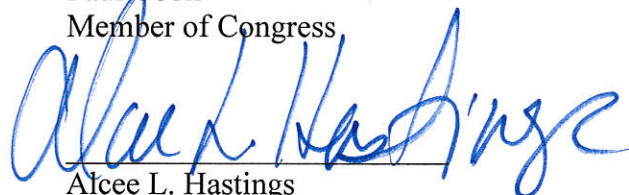
Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



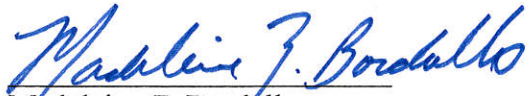
Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



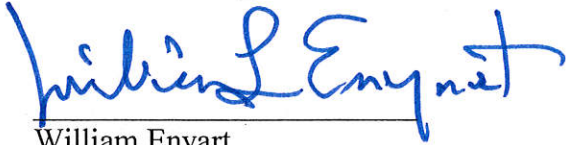
Alice L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



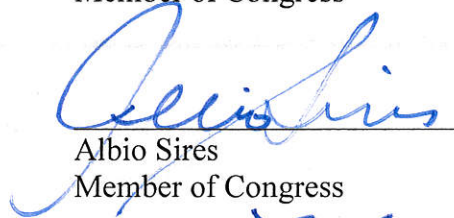
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



William Enyart
Member of Congress



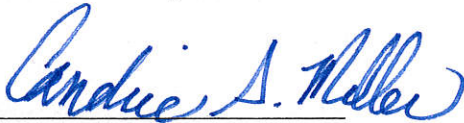
Tom Marino
Member of Congress



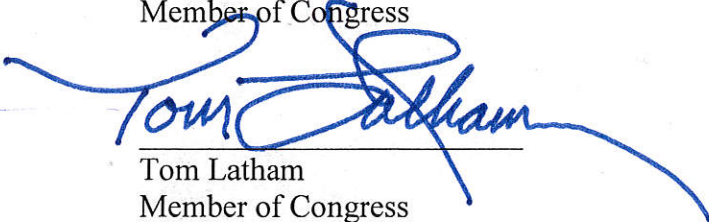
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



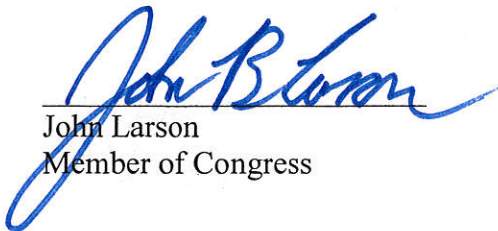
Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress



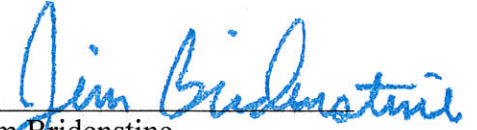
Tom Latham
Member of Congress



John Larson
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



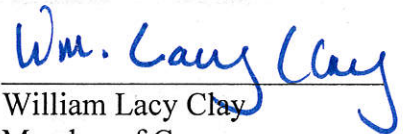
Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress




Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



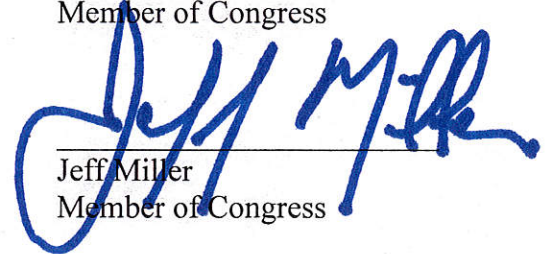
William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Ami Bera

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Gerry Connolly

Gerry Connolly
Member of Congress

Billy Long

Billy Long
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

Grace Meng

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Kerry Bentivolio

Kerry Bentivolio
Member of Congress

Frank R. Wolf

Frank Wolf
Member of Congress