

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We are pleased to point out to you that the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, has just taken a major step in the right direction. We should take advantage of this positive development to expand cooperation between our countries and that would include a restoration of full diplomatic relations including the exchange of ambassadors.

The government in Minsk has in the last two years tried to play a major role in finding a compromise that will end the conflict in Ukraine. We should applaud such efforts and recognize President Lukashenko's eagerness to work with us to confront some very serious challenges.

Working together with regional players such as Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine, we could deflate tensions in what has become a very volatile region.

We believe it is time to reestablish full diplomatic relations including the exchange of ambassadors.

Sincerely,



Dana Rohrabacher
Chairman
Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia,
and Emerging Threats
Committee on House Foreign Affairs



Gregory Meeks
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia
and Emerging Threats
Committee on House Foreign Affairs