April 5, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We, the representative organizations of Central and Eastern European diasporas, implore you to bring to the floor a supplemental request to assist Ukraine’s territorial defense. Such assistance aligns with United States national security interests and strategic planning for our allies in Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific. This window to influence the world positively at this historic turning point is rapidly closing. We can no longer get bogged down in debates about questions that have been repeatedly and thoroughly addressed. Urgency is required.

In the third year of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the reality has become abundantly clear. Russia’s barbarian invasion not only violates human rights and the American-led rules-based order, but its heinous crimes directly threaten our national security interests. The U.S. is the leader of the free and democratic world, and it would be horrific to our communities to see our role as the beacon of freedom and democracy in the world so drastically shifted.

This supplemental is a great deal for America - but we must act with immediacy. Not only does the vast majority of the money stay in the United States, but we deter our most pressing geopolitical rival with a fiscal bargain, without the loss of any American lives. Conversely, if Ukraine loses this war, our expenditure on lives and resources will increase many times. What we spend on Ukraine now pales in comparison to what we would have to spend if Europe is drawn into a direct war with Russia. Putin has set his sights on NATO territories and is eager to see the Western security order collapse.

We have been making these arguments for months, and with each passing week, Ukraine is losing more lives and territory. We no longer have time to waste. We demand immediate and resolute steps to be taken by members of Congress, with your leadership, to pass a supplemental military assistance bill to aid Ukraine.

Respectfully,

The Central and East European Coalition