



**Ukrainian Congress Committee of America-Illinois Division
Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки – Відділ Іллінойс**

February 15, 2021

The Honorable Michael “Mike” Quigley
U.S. Representative to the U.S. Congress – Illinois 5th Congressional District
Congressional Ukraine Caucus, Co-Chair
4345 North Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60641

2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Appeal to join in the co-sponsorship of HB922 – Crimea Annexation Non-Recognition Act

Dear Congressman Quigley:

On behalf of the Ukrainian-American community in the state of Illinois, we want to thank you for your support of Ukraine and we appeal for your continued bipartisan support as a co-sponsor of HB922.

Representatives Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Steve Chabot (R-OH) have introduced a new bill in the U.S. House of Representatives regarding the non-recognition of the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation in 2014. The “Crimea Annexation Non-Recognition Act” (HB922) states that “*no Federal department or agency may take any action or extend any assistance that implies recognition of the Russian Federation’s claim of sovereignty over Crimea, its airspace, or its territorial waters.*”

Russia formally incorporated Crimea...on 18 March 2014. **PLEASE SEE TIMELINE ATTACHED.** Ukraine and many other countries condemned the annexation and consider it to be a violation of international law and Russian-signed agreements safeguarding the territorial integrity of Ukraine, including the 1991 Belavezha Accords that established the Commonwealth of Independent States, the 1975 Helsinki Accords, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances and the 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. It led to the other members of the then G8 suspending Russia from the group AND introducing a first round of sanctions against Russia. They also rejected the referendum and annexation, adopting a resolution affirming the "territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders". The UN resolution also "underscores that the referendum having no validity, cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of [Crimea]" and called upon all states and international organizations not to recognize or to imply the recognition of Russia's annexation. **In 2016, the UN General Assembly reaffirmed non-recognition of the annexation and condemned** "the temporary occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine—the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.”

Members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America-Illinois Division and its 40 member organizations in Illinois, hope that you will consider joining your colleagues in the co-sponsorship of HB922. Your assistance is critically important to assure a robust Ukraine policy that strengthens the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the United States.

We are grateful for Congress’s continued overwhelming bipartisan support of Ukraine and hope that you will continue in supporting the interests of the Ukrainian Community of Chicago and Illinois.

Sincerely,

Ihor Diaczun

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