



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 11, 2015

Mrs. Loreta Grauzinienė
Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania
Gedimino pr. 53
LT-01109 Vilnius
Lithuania

Dear Madam Speaker:

We would like to congratulate the people of the Republic of Lithuania on the 25th anniversary of the Act of the Re-Establishment of the State of Lithuania, adopted on March 11, 1990.

During 50 years of Soviet occupation of the Baltic States, the United States Congress strongly, consistently, and on a bipartisan basis refused to legally recognize the incorporation of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania by the Soviet Union. Despite Moscow's efforts to eradicate the memory of independence, the people of Lithuania and other Baltic countries never lost their hope for democracy, freedom, and their long-held dream of full independence.

Today we are happy to celebrate together a rich history of Lithuania, which is a full-fledged and responsible member of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The United States welcomes and appreciates the efforts by the Republic of Lithuania to maintain international peace and stability in Europe and around the world by contributing to international civilian and military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo, Mali, Georgia and other countries. Lithuania is a close and important ally of the United States, and the people of Lithuania share common democratic values with the people of the United States.

In 2012, the United States and the Republic of Lithuania celebrated 90 years of continuous diplomatic relations. We recognize the close and enduring strategic partnership with the Republic of Lithuania and call for continuing to build on these mutually beneficial relations.

On August 30, 2013, the Presidents of the United States, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia signed a joint political declaration at the White House, reaffirming the commitment of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and the United States to strengthen our strategic cooperation on defense as well as on energy, cyber and economic security.


We congratulate Lithuania on its completion of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Klaipeda to mark the beginning of de facto energy independence for Lithuania.

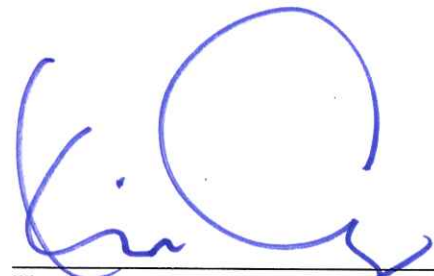
Unfortunately, the worsening security situation along the eastern NATO borders raises valid concerns regarding the security of Lithuania and requires the implementation of adequate defense measures. Last year at the NATO Summit in Wales the Heads of States and Governments approved a Readiness Action Plan and agreed unanimously that the principle of collective defense remained the core purpose for the Alliance. At this difficult time it is important to ensure a timely and full implementation of the Readiness Action Plan.

The United States remains committed to bolster the security of Lithuania and other eastern Allies.

As universal human values, international law, and stability are increasingly threatened, the free world must work closely to defend the international order against aggression and to guard against authoritarianism and instability.

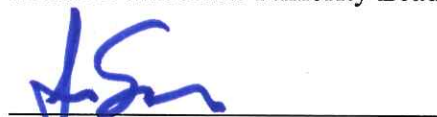
Sincerely,


John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House


Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Leader


Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Minority Leader


Steny Hoyer
House Democratic Minority Whip


John Shimkus
Co-Chair, House Baltic Caucus


Adam Schiff
Co-Chair, House Baltic Caucus