

SUPPORTING CONTINUED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE

SUPPORTING CONTINUED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE

(House of Representatives - January 13, 2010)

Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the importance of continued political and economic development in Ukraine. The United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership, signed in December 2008 by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, signifies the strong relationship between the United States and Ukraine. We continue to support the expanding cooperation on defense, trade, energy, democratic development, and cultural exchange.

During the IX Lvov International Economic Forum, international experts noted Ukraine's strong areas and the areas that are worth working on. Areas of strength include the market's scope, the system of higher education, macroeconomic stability, and effectiveness of the job market. The following drawbacks, however, were noted: lack of preparedness for the introduction of new technologies, the financial sector, the instability of government institutions and the country's policies as a whole, and the ineffectiveness of the commodities market.

Ukrainians have a strong presence in Chicago and have greatly contributed to the city. There are almost 14,000 Ukrainians living within city limits and more than 45,000 Ukrainians living within the greater Chicago metropolitan area. The core Ukrainian neighborhood in the city is known as Chicago's "Ukrainian Village." Even though Ukrainian Chicago extends far beyond the Ukrainian Village, this area continues to function as its hub with three major Ukrainian churches, two Ukrainian banks, a Ukrainian grammar school, the Ukrainian National Museum, a Ukrainian Cultural Center, two Ukrainian youth organizations, and many Ukrainian restaurants, stores and businesses.

I am honored to represent such a diverse and multi-cultured congressional district, and I continue to welcome the people of the Ukrainian Village and honor them for their continued service and dedication to Chicago.