

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 23, 2014

The Honorable Ewa Kopacz
Prime Minister
Republic of Poland

Dear Prime Minister Kopacz:

As Members of Congress, we appreciate and understand the importance of a strong U.S.-Poland relationship. We share the sentiments of President Obama, when he remarked in Warsaw a few months ago that “as Americans, we are proud to call Poland one of our strongest and closest allies.” Poland has been a steadfast partner of the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan. Currently, sharing broad concern about Russia’s actions and intentions in Ukraine and elsewhere, the United States has increased its forces participating in the Baltic Air Policing mission, committed troops and resources to joint training exercises, and has proposed new funding in support of European security and reassurance.

Recently, the Polish Ministry of Defense (MoD) moved forward in its proposed procurement of an Air and Missile Defense (AMD) system by down-selecting to two competitors: a Patriot-based system offered by American firm Raytheon, and a system offered by Thales-MBDA, a French/European consortium. We firmly believe that the Patriot-based system offers many advantages, and urge you to strongly consider this platform as the Poland MoD moves ahead with a Request for Proposals for an AMD system.

The Patriot-based system offers a number of advantages that should be considered in selecting a final supplier. The system has been adopted by 13 partner countries, including other NATO members. Additionally, it is currently in operational use and has been battle proven. The U.S. military is committed to Patriot as its program of record until 2048. By selecting the US Army’s program of record, the door is open for extensive military to military cooperation. Selection of Patriot will also result in significant and meaningful industrial collaboration on future system improvements that will enable Poland to establish exports to other Patriot partner countries. All of these factors enable NATO interoperability, the ability to deploy operational systems in the near-term, and future industrial development opportunities that will make the Patriot an effective and attractive solution for Poland’s AMD needs.

Thank you for your consideration of the Patriot-system as a solution to Poland’s AMD modernization needs. We appreciate the valuable role that Poland has taken as partners with the United States and NATO, and the strong posture it has demonstrated to external threats. We look forward to continuing to strengthen the U.S.-Poland relationship, in the security arena and elsewhere.

Sincerely,



DAN LIPINSKI
Member of Congress



BILL SHUSTER
Member of Congress



MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress



BILL KEATING
Member of Congress



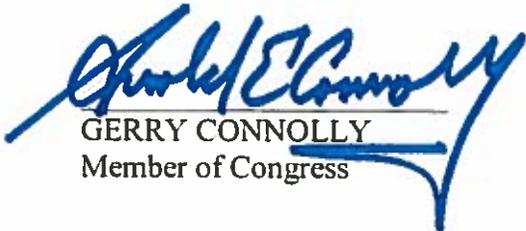
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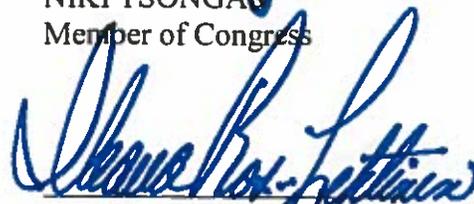

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