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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write today regarding recent media reports indicating that you negotiated a secret deal with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. According to these reports, you unilaterally agreed not to provide lethal assistance to Ukraine, despite the country's continued efforts to defeat Russian-backed separatists. I am deeply troubled by the circumstances, terms, and manner in which this agreement was reached.

As President, the Constitution requires you to seek the "advice and consent" of the Senate before formally entering into agreements with other nations. This latest secret deal between you and a foreign head of state is eerily similar to your actions at the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, in which you covertly negotiated an agreement on the subject of U.S. missile defense with former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Due to a "hot mic" incident, you were caught stating to former President Medvedev that after the 2012 election, your "last election," you "would have greater flexibility" to make a deal with Russia concerning U.S. missile defense. Your comments in Seoul made clear you had concerns that the American people were not willing to accept the terms of your secret agreement which jeopardizes U.S. national security.

Following that election, you did in fact make good on your secret deal with Russia and proceeded to cancel Phase IV of your very own European Phased Adaptive Approach exposing the United States and its allies to ballistic missile threats posed by Russia and Iran.

In December of last year, Congress unanimously approved and you signed into law the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, which authorized immediate lethal assistance to Ukraine. Despite possessing the legal authority and strong bipartisan support from Congress for lethal assistance, you now appear to be entering into secret agreements contrary to the very law you signed roughly three months ago.

With respect to the ongoing and troubling crisis in Ukraine, I and many senior officials in your Administration believe we must immediately provide lethal assistance to the Ukrainian military to combat the Russian-backed separatists seeking to undermine peace and the rule of law. As evidenced by Russia's continued invasion into Ukraine and subsequent violations of Minsk I and II, it is clear that Putin is aggressively pursuing efforts to destabilize much of Eastern Europe in

order to restore control over territories lost following the collapse of the former Soviet Union. The United States cannot continue to stand idly by and allow this deteriorating situation to go on.

I ask that you immediately provide Congress with any and all details pertaining to your negotiations – formal, informal, unilateral, and otherwise – with German Chancellor Angela Merkel regarding the withholding of U.S. lethal assistance to Ukraine. Additionally, I ask that you reconsider your position on lethal assistance and provide Ukraine with the resources it needs to defend itself.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress