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ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

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

November 12, 2015

Honorable John Kerry
Secretary, Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I am writing once again to express my strong support for taking action to address the political crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). It has become abundantly obvious that BiH is in the midst of its worst crisis since the Dayton Peace Accords were signed in 1995. Now is the time for the United States, along with members of the international community, to take swift action and renew our commitment to lasting peace in the Balkans.

This is why I'd like to again propose the need for a Dayton Peace Accords II. I wrote to your predecessor, Secretary Clinton in 2010 and 2011, encouraging a strong U.S role in unresolved Balkan regional issues. Representatives of the Balkan states and other regional partners should again gather at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, to tackle the remaining challenges. We need to take a critical look at what must be done to secure a functioning and viable BiH for the future.

In his most recent report, Mr. Inzko expressed grave concerns to the Secretary General of the United Nations that the Republic of Srpska is in "clear breach" of the Dayton Agreement. Mr. Inzko further articulated that if the current situation continues "there will be increased risk that [Bosnia-Herzegovina] will slide further towards disintegration" and ultimately pose "significant international peace and security implications". Republika Srpska's President, Milorad Dodik, announced this past April that Republika Srpska will hold an independence referendum in 2018. Additionally, in July of this year the Republika Srpska National Assembly (RSNA) adopted a motion to hold a referendum on the validity of the state judicial authorities and the validity of the High Representative. The planned referendum on the legitimacy of the State-level judiciary and other institutions further signals the need to rapidly address securing a functioning and viable BiH.

Now is the time to reaffirm our dedication to the enduring stability of the region by hosting the Dayton Peace Accords II. As we are both committed to the success of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Balkans, I look forward to working together toward a common goal of seeking a permanent resolution of these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R. Turner".

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress