

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Support for the Republic of Macedonia's NATO Membership

Dear Colleague:

On April 2 - 4, 2008, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will hold its 20th Summit in Bucharest and is expected to enlarge the alliance. We write to ask that Members of Congress support the Republic of Macedonia's NATO admission.

The Republic of Macedonia is a committed and highly valued ally of the United States. Macedonian soldiers are fighting alongside our own brave troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Macedonia just recently doubled its troop level in Iraq. Macedonia was a crucial staging area for NATO's Kosovo intervention, providing refuge to over 360,000 Kosovar refugees in 1999. Additionally, Macedonia is currently participating in the European Union (EU) peacekeeping mission to Bosnia and the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mission to Lebanon.

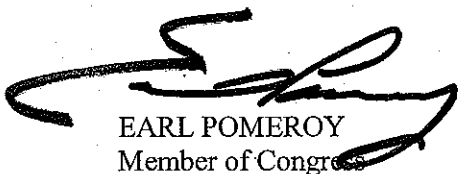
Macedonia deserves an invitation to join NATO at the Bucharest Summit in April 2008. In addition to contributing to missions abroad and serving as a net contributor to international security, Macedonia has enacted wide-ranging reforms demonstrating its dedication to the rule of law, the protection of the civil rights for all its citizens, market economies and defense reforms. Furthermore, Macedonia recently assumed command of NATO's former host nation support coordination center that provides logistical support for Kosovo Forces (KFOR) in Kosovo.

Recently, our friend Greece has threatened to veto Macedonia's NATO accession unless Macedonia cedes to Greek demands that Macedonia change its name. Greece objects to Macedonia's constitutional name, the "Republic of Macedonia" because Athens claims the name indicates territorial ambitions. However, the majority of nation-states, over 120, recognize Macedonia as the Republic of Macedonia, including the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.


House Resolution 356, a resolution regarding the relationship between Greece and the Republic of Macedonia, has the potential to impede our nation's relationship with Macedonia and negatively reverberate amongst our international friends and allies. This resolution with its errant reference to Macedonia under the acronym "FYROM" (i.e. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Greece's questionable factual assertions about the Republic of Macedonia's regional intentions, will only alienate Macedonia despite its demonstrated solidarity with the United States. This matter should not be settled on the House Floor, and we ask our Colleagues to think this matter through more thoroughly. We have been through these debates before. The Congress does not need to again confront another delicate international dilemma like this now. It will continue to be addressed by the United Nations, and we believe this multilateral institution provides the best chance for finding a solution.

We respectfully ask that you join us in commending Macedonia's demonstrated friendship with our nation and that you readily support Macedonia's NATO admission.

Sincerely,



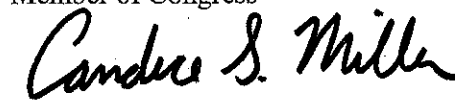
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