



146 Forest Hill Street Boston, MA 02130

Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

August 13, 2012

Dear Governor Patrick,

This year, on August 24th, Ukraine will be marking its 21st anniversary of renewed independence. After centuries of foreign domination, under both the Russian Empire and the Soviet totalitarian regime, the Parliament of Ukraine heroically proclaimed the nation's independence in 1991, thus taking the first step towards establishing a free and democratic state.

This was a monumental move by the Ukrainian people, as throughout the years, they endured and overcame countless attempts by foreign aggressors to eradicate their nation of close to 50 million people. Their continuous struggle for independence came at the cost of millions of lives resulting from such atrocities as political repressions, forced labor, gulags and massacres, not to mention the egregious crime of the 1932-1933 Ukrainian Genocide which took the lives of between 7-10 million innocent Ukrainians, more than 20% of the population, including at least three million children, who died as a result of this man-made famine.

Over the last two decades, Ukraine has made great strides in consolidating its sovereignty and becoming a truly democratic nation. Unfortunately, over the past two years, under the current leadership of President Viktor Yanukovich, we have witnessed a backsliding of democracy, halting the democratic progress and ultimately putting the people's freedom in serious jeopardy. In light of Ukraine's upcoming parliamentary elections in October 2012, it is more important today than ever to demonstrate the U.S.' support for the progress Ukraine has made over the past two decades of independence as well as to encourage its citizens to continue their reforms toward establishing a truly democratic state. Therefore, as your constituents, we urge you to issue a proclamation commemorating the 21st anniversary of Ukraine's independence. For your convenience, we have enclosed a draft proclamation of this important anniversary for our community and our brethren in Ukraine.

On behalf of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Boston Branch.

Best Regards,

Vsevolod Petriv
President
UCCA, Boston Branch

Maria Saxe
Secretary -English
UCCA, Boston Branch