



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

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February 19, 2013

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

Millions of Polish American citizen-voters continue to be disappointed that their relatives in Poland cannot travel to the United States visa free as may the citizens of virtually all other countries constituting the European Union, of which Poland is a progressive, dynamic member.

Since 2004, in addition to related legislation introduced on Capitol Hill, thirteen state legislatures (MA, NJ, VT, PA, CT, ME, NE, NY, OH, MI, AZ, IL, MA, IL, and RI in that order) have passed fifteen resolutions, with Massachusetts and Illinois passing two each, "memorializing" the Congress and President of the United States to admit Poland to our nation's Visa Waiver Program. Despite the impasse, all informed Americans know that Poland has been a loyal ally and friend of our nation since the time of the service of Kościuszko and Pulaski in our "Glorious Cause" through the time of NATO deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan in the 21st century.

It would be unworthy of the United States to further delay resolution of this problem that is highly upsetting to citizens of Poland, a supportive, American-friendly nation that poses no security threat to the United States whatsoever. Moreover, failure to take positive action soon will specifically alienate informed Polish Americans who likely will infer that resolution of Poland's exclusion from the Visa Waiver Program will be delayed until 2016, or later, if ever.

America's principled tradition of honor and fair play for all must preclude this likelihood. We recognize and appreciate your Administration's commitment to bringing Poland into the Visa Waiver Program. The Polish American Congress looks forward to working with your Administration to make it happen this year.

Sincerely yours,

Frank J. Spula,
President