



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

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February 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator John McCain
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Senators:

The Polish American Congress, being the largest Polish American organization, closely follows the situation in Poland and elsewhere around the world in all aspects that can affect the country of our forefathers.

Your recent letter addressed to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, the Honorable Beata Szydlo, raised some concerns for the Polish community in the United States.

Since 1989, Poland has been committed to the core principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union. There has always been a respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

The last election in Poland was a victory for the Law and Justice Party, wherein the citizens of Poland decided that this political party should have an independent majority.

In our understanding of the recent changes, no decision was made by the government that violated the principles of democracy. Unfortunately, the unparalleled steps by the European Commission (EC) regarding Poland have

created much anxiety and worry. The EC interest in the internal matters of Poland is surprising to members of the Polish American community.

Ever since the initial landing of Poles on North American soil in Jamestown, Poland has been and continues to be a proven friend and loyal ally of the United States. We are certain, that given time, the newly elected government in Poland despite recent criticism will prove its support and appreciation of the core principles of democracy.

We urge you and the other undersigned Senators to thoroughly and objectively review the facts of the situation in Poland, and take under cautious consideration all of the aspects regarding the state of affairs.

Your concern for Poland is valued and appreciated, however, we believe that Poland as a strong and independent country will continue to resolve its matters internally through a democratic process with respect to the law of the land.

Respectfully,



Frank J. Spula
President