

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 20, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Menendez  
Chair  
United States Senate Foreign Relations  
Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Risch  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate Foreign Relations  
Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Menendez, and Ranking Member Risch,

As Bi-partisan Co-Chairs of the Congressional Croatian Caucus, we request that you expeditiously move to confirm an Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia. The Congressional Croatian Caucus's priority is to promote and expand bilateral cultural exchange between the United States and Croatia through shared values, cross-cultural cooperation, and the promotion of trade and business opportunities across the Atlantic. It is critical that we have a confirmed Ambassador in place to fully realize the bilateral goals of the Caucus and to continue to strengthen relations between our two nations.

Since 1992 the United States and Croatia have enjoyed 30 years of strong relationships through our commitment to democratic values and prosperity for both countries. As a trusted ally in Southeast Europe, Croatia has been a dedicated partner in upholding democratic principles and good governance, illustrated by the domestic reforms Croatia needed to join NATO. Relatedly, as a NATO ally, Croatia acts as a stable security force in the Western Balkans and a model for other regional states in their path to NATO membership. Furthermore, the United States is one of Croatia's leading trading partners in North America, with U.S. exports to Croatia totaling \$853 million and imported goods \$849 million in 2021.

Years of strong diplomatic relationships between the two countries have led to milestones in deepening U.S.-Croatian relations. Following the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties, the United States and Croatia held a Strategic Dialogue in Washington, D.C., in March of 2022, culminating in the *U.S. Integrated Country Plan for Croatia*. This plan outlines clear U.S. engagement with Croatia on goals to support democratic development, strengthen Croatian capabilities to promote

peace and security and deepen bilateral trade and investment. Preceding this summit, both countries worked towards addressing priority areas that resulted in Croatia's entry into the Visa Waiver Program and a treaty on double taxation.

Without a confirmed Ambassador, the United States will lack the necessary leadership to build upon years of bilateral relations and assist with U.S. objectives under the integrated plan. Therefore, we again request that you work to confirm an Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia as soon as possible. Thank you for your thorough consideration of this request.

Sincerely



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress