Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2011

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to commend you for your announced visit to Poland next month and to ask you to work with Congress to advance a key issue in our bilateral relationship – Poland's entry into the US Visa Waiver Program (VWP).

Poland joined NATO in 1999 and has been a member of the European Union since 2004, yet it remains one of the few major democratic allies excluded from the VWP. We are strongly encouraged by your commitment to resolve this issue. As you stated in your December 2010 meeting with President Komorowski, Poland's admission into the VWP should be a priority and the admission process should be completed expeditiously.

We look forward to working closely with you to advance this important goal in the 112th Congress. We recently introduced bicameral, bipartisan legislation – *The Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2011* (S.497/H.R. 959) – which would restructure the VWP to make the program more secure and more welcoming for strong allies like Poland that are frozen out under the current outdated framework.

As you know, Poland is one of our staunchest global allies and democratic partners. Poland has significantly contributed to America's missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Currently, more than 2,500 Polish troops are fighting alongside U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan's Ghazni Province. Twenty-four Polish soldiers have died in Afghanistan.

Poland's entry into the VWP will enhance U.S. security and strengthen the US-Polish alliance. In advance of your first visit to Poland, we ask you to prioritize this important issue in order to ensure the continued growth of the friendship between our countries and our peoples.

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Sincerely,

Mike Quigley

Clara Kim

Barbara A. Mikulski

Daniel Lipinski

Jan Schakowsky

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