

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2018

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

Russian intelligence services have implemented a deliberate strategy of cyber attacks to undermine Ukraine's social and democratic stability. This campaign involved major cyber attacks against government and private targets, which has increased and expanded since Russia's invasion of Ukraine's Crimea region in March 2014. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko now recognizes cyberspace as the latest battlefield for state independence.

As you know, in September 2017, the United States and Ukraine conducted the first United States-Ukraine Bilateral Cyber Dialogue in Kyiv, Ukraine. During the dialogue, U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch announced that the United States would provide over \$5 million in new cyber assistance to strengthen Ukraine's ability to prevent mitigate and respond to cyberattacks. I understand that the Department is currently undergoing an assessment to determine the best of course of action for this funding. I write to express my support for the Department's actions and ask that you keep me apprised of the assessment's findings.

For years Putin has been using Ukraine as a field test for cyber warfare. Ukraine is a frontline for these nation state-directed cyber attacks – potential harbingers of attacks on the United States. By assisting Ukraine, we can protect an important ally in a critical region of the world while at the same time learning best practices to best defend ourselves. With this in mind, I encourage the Department to further prioritize this effort and provide financial support for cyber assistance in Ukraine as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress