

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

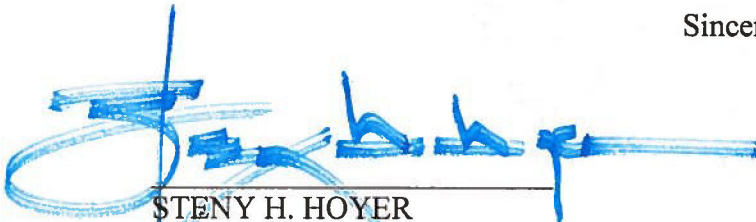
Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our deep concern regarding a series of attacks on career foreign service officers currently stationed as or nominated to become U.S. ambassadors. In what is an increasingly disturbing trend, we have seen foreign officials attack our own U.S. ambassadors and foreign service officers for performing their jobs and advancing U.S. interests.

We are particularly concerned about the outrageous efforts by Ukrainian officials to impugn the efforts of our representative in that country, Ambassador Masha Yovanovitch, whom we know to be a dedicated public servant and diplomat of the highest caliber. Prior to her appointment in Ukraine, Ambassador Yovanovitch twice served honorably and effectively as U.S. Ambassador, first nominated by President George W. Bush. During her time in Ukraine, she has been a tireless advocate for governance and economic reforms and the fight against corruption, critical for the long-term success of democracy in Ukraine and the country's ability to counter Russian aggression. It is disappointing that certain political actors within Ukraine have criticized Ambassador Yovanovitch, given her focus on anti-corruption efforts that touch on their interests.

It is critical that State Department leadership support our ambassadors and foreign service officers in the field and make clear that they will not be subjected to any politically motivated attacks. We urge you to make public statements personally defending your team and those who represent our country from these spurious disparagements. These public servants represent our finest values, and they should know they have the full backing of the U.S. government in performing their critical mission.

Sincerely,



STENY H. HOYER
House Majority Leader



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Chairman, House Foreign Affairs
Committee