

American Latvian Association European Latvian Association South American and Caribbean Latvian Association Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand Latvian National Federation in Canada Latvian Congress in Russia WORLD FEDERATION OF FREE LATVIANS

March 6, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump President of the United States The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you on behalf of our U.S.-based Board of Directors and member organizations worldwide to express our utmost concern about the state of transatlantic relations between the United States and European countries, and the pause of U.S. military support for Ukraine.

We agree with you that Europe must do more to ensure its own security and to invest in the defense of Ukraine. Indeed, many European countries have increased their defense spending, including the Baltic states, which are just behind Poland on investment in their own security. However, the well-established, strong security ties between the U.S. and Europe within the NATO framework is the best guarantor of peace in Europe and the United States. Peace through U.S. strength has benefited Americans for generations.

With respect to aid to Ukraine, the Ukrainian people have suffered greatly and fought valiantly to defend themselves. Many Ukrainian innocents have perished and children have been kidnapped. The U.S. should uphold its strategic role as protector of the oppressed, as a reliable ally, and provide Kyiv with continued military and humanitarian aid. We also urge you to recognize that the Putin regime is the aggressor in this conflict and take note of the views of your allies in the Congressional leadership, including Speaker Johnson and Majority Leader Thune, who have cast doubt about Russia's reliability.

The United States is and must remain the power that leads the resolve of the Allies to provide support to Ukraine. Enabling Ukraine and Europe to achieve a just and lasting peace will strengthen the United States' position globally, both with other allies and against other aggressors. We urge you as President of the United States to manifest your role as leader of the free world.

As the umbrella organization for the hundreds of thousands of Latvians living in the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, Russia and South America, we as the World Federation of Free Latvians, encourage you to:

• Lift your pause on providing U.S. support for Ukraine by delivering weapons systems and ammunition and humanitarian aid during the peace process, recognizing also that this benefits the American defense industry which will supply many of these systems;

- Negotiate a peace deal that provides a lasting peace and a long-term solution to the conflict, but that is fair to Ukrainians, the victims of Russia's invasion;
- Maintain the U.S. military presence in Europe as strong as ever, including in the Baltic States of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. Keep up joint NATO/U.S.-Baltic military exercises and patrols, continue to cooperate on important projects such as cybersecurity and missions to detect the sabotage of undersea pipelines and cables.

We urge you to stand for freedom, peace, prosperity and Western democratic values. We thank you and the United States for the support you have provided to Ukraine to defend itself, thereby protecting American interests in Europe and around the world.

Respectfully,

Peters Bunleys

Peteris Blumbergs President, The World Federation of Free Latvians