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**One Hundred Sixteenth Congress**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Foreign Affairs**  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
[www.foreignaffairs.house.gov](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov)

August 29, 2019

His Excellency Mateusz Morawiecki  
The Chancellery of the Prime Minister  
00-583 Warsaw  
Al. Uhazdowskie 1/3  
Poland

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

One year ago, the then-Chairman and the then-Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee wrote to you about concerns with the state of democracy in Poland. Today, we, as the new Chairman and the new Ranking Member of the same House Foreign Affairs Committee, are again writing to you on a bipartisan basis to express continued concern about the health of Poland's democracy.

As long-time supporters of the U.S. – Poland relationship, we readily recognize the transformation Poland has undergone over the past several decades as it threw off the yoke of Soviet oppression. A valued ally in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Poland is an important partner in numerous operations. The United States' commitment to the Polish and European people's security is evidenced by the deployment of over 2,000 U.S. military personnel to various operations in Poland, including NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence and additional bilateral commitments. We recognize the challenges Poland still faces as it addresses threats posed by a resurgent Russia and the continued need to strengthen its economy and improve the standard of living for all Poles. And we stand firmly with Poland in tackling them.

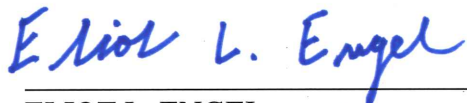
At the same time, we cannot ignore the corrosion of Polish democracy. The curtailing of judicial independence and politicization of the judiciary, attacks on freedom of speech – such as laws that ban reference to some Poles' complicity in the Holocaust - and purposeful assaults on Polish minority groups' freedoms are examples of eroding democratic principles that threaten to undermine all of the sacrifices Poles have made to build a modern, democratic Poland.

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the belief that the restriction of freedom of speech, historical reflection, and assaults on core democratic tenets undermines Poland's democratic credibility.

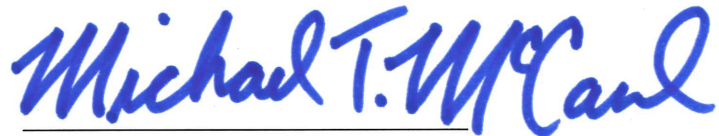
We wish to see a vibrant Polish democracy that provides for its people, but Poland's strength, like America's, comes from embracing democratic ideals and values. Proceeding down a path that curbs Polish political freedoms would be an unnecessary tragedy. It is for this reason that, as friends of and believers in Poland, we offer these earnest and heartfelt thoughts to you.

Sincerely,



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ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Chairman



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MICHAEL McCAUL  
Ranking Member