

To: Representative Mike Thompson 622 Main Street, Suite 106 Woodland, CA 95695

## Dear Representative Thompson,

I write to you on behalf of the 81% of Americans who firmly stand with Ukraine. This overwhelming majority crosses political boundaries. In the face of this unjust and genocidal invasion, it is imperative that our leaders publicly voice their support for Ukraine—an expression that resonates with core American values of freedom, justice, and compassion.

We were heartened by your February 25 press release condemning the United States' refusal to join the United Nations resolution denouncing Russian aggression and calling for the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity. Your clear rebuke—"Putin's aggression has cost thousands of innocent lives and undermined our national security... Stop backing a brutal authoritarian and start standing up for democracy"—demonstrates precisely the leadership America needs on the world stage.

California and New York host the largest populations of Ukrainian and Russian immigrants in the United States. Specifically, California is home to 112,000 Ukrainian and 166,222 Russian immigrants, while New York hosts 148,000 Ukrainian and 600,000 Russian immigrants. As a California representative, you are uniquely positioned to amplify the voices of these communities—and, by extension, the 81% of Americans who stand firmly with Ukraine.

We recognize the legitimate concerns that come with speaking out: "If I speak up, might I invite retaliation? If I remain silent, do I become complicit? How can I protect those most vulnerable, especially immigrants?" These fears merit thoughtful consideration, but they cannot justify inaction. Silence in the face of tyranny betrays both our principles and our historic role as a beacon of freedom.

Representative Thompson, your recent statement at the United Nations vote was a vital step. On behalf of "Yolo for Ukraine," a grassroots community organization of Yolo County residents, we respectfully urge you to amplify your leadership and lend your voice once more on behalf of the overwhelming majority of Americans standing with Ukraine. We are sending similar messages to other lawmakers who have already voiced their solidarity. Should you choose to speak at the Capitol in Sacramento, our local organizations stand ready to coordinate and support a rally, and we are confident that many other leaders will join you.

Thank you for your unwavering leadership and commitment to justice. With deep gratitude and respect,