



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3605

September 4, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo Secretary  
Department of State  
2201 C Street NW Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

For over two hundred years, as many as 30,000 members of the Jewish community from around the world make an annual pilgrimage to the city of Uman, Ukraine to spend the Jewish New Year praying at the gravesite of their revered teacher, Rabbi Nachman of Uman. This year, the Ukrainian government limited the number of people who can safely come to pray due to concerns about the novel coronavirus. This past week, the Ukrainian government closed its borders to most foreigners from August 29 to September 28, 2020, which will make it impossible for those outside the country to participate in the religious pilgrimage this year.

We respectfully write to you to consider advocating on behalf of a group of American citizens whom find this annual pilgrimage extremely important.

The ruling to close the Ukrainian border has at least a dozen published exceptions, including allowing students, diplomats, and cultural figures to arrive by invitation. The Ukrainian government could add a limited religious exception allowing for a small fraction of the regular attendees (not to exceed 2000 people) to enter the country for a total of five days. All members of the group would be tested upon arrival at their own expense and would agree to follow all medical safety and security precautions and protocols at all times. This includes remaining in quarantine apart from the local population.

We respectfully ask that you consider this request given the wonderful relationship between the United States, Ukraine, and our Jewish communities. We believe that this limited exception, with all associated caveats, could make sure that a time-honored religious practice is continued safely.

Sincerely,



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Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



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Kevin McCarthy  
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress



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Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



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Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



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Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress



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Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



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Mark Walker  
Member of Congress

*Dedesko*

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Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress

*Charles L. Fleischmann*

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Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress

*Steve King*

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Steve King  
Member of Congress

*David Kustoff*

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David Kustoff  
Member of Congress

*Jim Banks*

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Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

*Doug Lamborn*

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Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

*Andy Barr*

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Andy Barr  
Member of Congress

*Jesse*  
M.C.

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John Shimkus  
Member of Congress

*Cathy McMorris Rodgers*

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Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

*Warren Davidson*

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Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress



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H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



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Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress



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Greg Walden  
Member of Congress



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Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



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Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress

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