

Rep. Joe Wilson, *South Carolina*
Chairman



Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, *Maryland*
Co-Chairman

October 28, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to strongly urge your administration to grant Poland the authority to intercept and neutralize missiles over Ukraine, particularly those threatening to encroach upon Polish airspace. Poland's Foreign Minister, Radosław Sikorski, has recently made requests to this effect, and we believe that providing this capability is a necessary step in defending NATO territory and safeguarding one of our most critical allies.

Russia's war on Ukraine has already had tragic consequences for Poland. In November 2022, a missile strike in the village of Przewodow killed two Polish farmers. While this incident highlighted the proximity of the threat, it is clear that the risk to Poland remains high as Russian missile attacks near the border continue. The growing number of strikes in western Ukraine raises significant concerns about the potential for further casualties and escalation in the region.

Foreign Minister Sikorski's request is defensive in nature, aligning with NATO's mission to protect the territorial integrity of its member states. Allowing Poland to intercept missiles over Ukraine would not constitute an offensive act, but rather a crucial step in ensuring the security of NATO's eastern flank. This action would bolster NATO's deterrent posture, while demonstrating our collective resolve to defend the alliance against further Russian aggression.

NATO and the United States have exercised excessive restraint in response to Russian provocations, a cautious approach that has only emboldened Russia to act more recklessly, often with blatant disregard for NATO's borders. Despite Russia's continued escalation through hybrid warfare – airspace violations, attacks on critical infrastructure, and efforts to destabilize democratic institutions – we have hesitated to confront these threats decisively, allowing Russia to wage a war against the alliance with minimal consequences. In this context, Poland's request to intercept and neutralize missiles over Ukraine is both necessary and urgent as a support mechanism for Ukraine and a safeguard to the frontline of NATO's borders.

We respectfully ask that your administration work closely with the Polish government and NATO partners to grant Poland the necessary permissions to intercept and neutralize missile threats. This decisive action would help prevent future incidents and uphold NATO's commitment to collective defense.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and we appreciate your leadership in supporting Poland and protecting the security of our alliance.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joe Wilson in blue ink.

Rep. Joe Wilson
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Steve Cohen in blue ink.

Rep. Steve Cohen
Ranking Member