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October 17, 2008

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Via Fax: (202) 228-2862
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Dear Senator McCain,

As you may know, today a ceremony took place in the White House Rose Garden, during which President Bush announced that seven countries – Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and South Korea – met the requirements to join the Visa Waiver Program.

Poland was not included as one of the favored nations.

I am certain that you are well aware of the great significance the inclusion of Poland in the Visa Waiver Program would have to one of this country's most steadfast allies.

However, Poland is still yet to be included as, according to the most recent statistics, the refusal rate in Poland is three points too high.

There is no need to reiterate all of the facts that show how Poland has been for years one of the most reliable and consistent allies of the United States in many arenas, as well as the fact that Poland not only does not pose any kind of terrorist threat, but has done a lot to combat this international menace. I am certain that you already know all of those arguments.

However, I would like to emphasize another, perhaps less known aspect of the situation, namely the great loss of good will today's continued exclusion means to many people of Poland towards the United States of America.

I have been repeatedly hearing how feelings of excitement and support towards our great country have been over the course of the last two years turning into those of disappointment and bitterness.

*60th
Anniversary*

SERVING THE INTERESTS OF POLISH AMERICANS SINCE 1944

Furthermore, and more worrisome, I have been hearing that many members of the 10 million strong Polish American Community (Polonia) are starting to hold similar feelings.

In these turbulent times, the United States has to cultivate and cherish its relationships with most faithful allies. Poland is definitely among those nations. It is time, in fact it is now much past due, to show Poland that its support and contributions are valued by the United States, and not with sweet words, but with concrete actions.

As the president of the Polish American Congress, one of the oldest—and the largest—Polish ethnic organization in the United States, I urge you, either as the next president of our great nation or on the Senate floor, to do what the previous administration has been promising Poland and Polonia for years but have never delivered – make sure that Poland joins the privileged ranks of the visa free travel as soon as possible.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank J. Spula". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frank J. Spula