

JACKSON-VANIK GRADUATION COALITION

Moving Ukraine Forward

Ambassador Steven Pifer and Ambassador William Miller, Co-Chairmen

November 30, 2005

Dear Chairman Thomas,

On the first anniversary of Ukraine's Orange Revolution, and with the Senate having passed S. 632, we are writing to request your action to pass legislation in the House of Representatives to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. The Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition has united organizations from across the country in support of the immediate graduation of Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

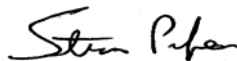
Ukraine has fully met the requirements of Jackson-Vanik, in particular by its exemplary record of open emigration. This has been recognized by President Clinton, who found Ukraine to be in full compliance with Jackson-Vanik in 1997, and President Bush, who called for Ukraine's graduation in his April 4, 2005 joint statement with President Yushchenko.

President Yushchenko received a unanimous ovation during a Joint Session of the U.S. Congress on April 6, 2005, when he remarked "we seek a new atmosphere of trust, frankness and partnership. I am calling upon you to [end] the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Please tear down this wall."

We have just returned from Ukraine, where we heard concerns from a number of Ukrainian political leaders that lack of action by the United States with regard to Jackson-Vanik could be seen as a failure of Yushchenko's pro-Western policy. With the upcoming March 2006 parliamentary elections in Ukraine, graduation from Jackson-Vanik would be understood by the people of Ukraine as a compelling sign of U.S. support for the continued development of a democratic market economy and further integration of Ukraine into Europe.

Our broad coalition, which currently includes over 70 Ukrainian-American and Jewish-American groups, business organizations and NGOs, urges immediate Congressional action to accomplish Ukraine's graduation. We very much hope for your support.

Sincerely,



Steven Pifer



William Green Miller