

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2024

Ambassador Urban Ahlin
Embassy of Sweden
2900 K St NW,
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Ambassador Ahlin,

Today, we welcome Sweden as a friend, an ally, and a true democratic partner to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). After a long process culminating in a final, formal vote on March 7th, you are finally the 32nd country to join the Alliance. As the Swedish flag is raised at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, we send our sincerest congratulations on this historic occasion.

Sweden's military is among the most capable in the world. Your armed forces are equipped with the latest in military technology and your service members consistently perform at the highest levels during military exercises. Your defense and technology industries are some of the largest and most advanced in Europe, giving the Alliance a much-needed industrial capacity boost.

Sweden's commitment to democratic principles played a major role in your accession into NATO. Your civic institutions are enshrined in decades of well-established law and your thoughtful constitution. Your fundamental principles of freedom greatly align with our campaign to counter oppressive autocratic regimes who seek to dismantle basic rights in their own countries and abroad.

We do not take lightly your decision to end your centuries-long neutrality position in the face of Vladimir Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine. The sovereign decision to ally with NATO's mission to ensure the collective defense of all its members is a deterrent unmatched by any alliance around the world. Putin's blatant provocation of invading Ukraine has now created a stronger Alliance than ever before, and we are proud for Sweden to become a part.

Sweden's membership in NATO is a historic achievement. Welcome to the Alliance and thank you for your commitment to defending democracy.

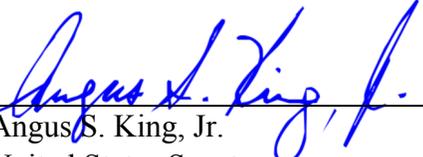
Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



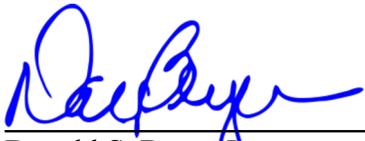
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress