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January 10, 2017

U.S. Senator Bob Corker
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

VIA FAX (202) 228-0566

Dear Senator Corker:

The American Latvian Association, the representative organization of more than 100,000 Americans of Latvian descent, is closely tracking the nomination and confirmation process for the next U.S. Secretary of State. We write to encourage the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to carefully examine the record of nominee Rex Tillerson. We are concerned about Mr. Tillerson's plans for Russia, NATO, and in particular, the Baltic States of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

Mr. Tillerson is a successful businessman and has vast experience traveling the world on behalf of Exxon Mobil, but not much is known about his diplomatic policy preferences and priorities. We encourage the Committee to press Mr. Tillerson on the following topics:

- What is his position on maintaining U.S./NATO equipment and troops permanently in the Northeastern European region (Poland and the Baltics)? What is NATO's role in countering Russian aggression? What is his strategy to deal with Russia's military provocations in Europe, including airspace incursions, troop buildups, etc.
- Is he committed to the concept of national self-determination in Europe and elsewhere? Or does he concede some sort of Russian sphere of influence? What options would he employ to achieve Russia's withdrawal from lands it unlawfully controls, such as Crimea and eastern Ukraine?
- Does he concede that Russia is engaged in disinformation campaigns and cyber warfare? What should the Administration's priorities be on countering and exposing these activities and to be more effective in fighting on this front?

We trust that you and your colleagues on the Committee will be able to give Mr. Tillerson a fair but forceful vetting to ensure that America's national security interests are protected.

Sincerely,

Pēteris Blumbergs
President