



# Croatian American Association

October 18, 2018

Senator Chris Murphy  
136 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murphy,

On behalf of the Croatian American Association (CAA), a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing tens of thousands of Croatian Americans, we write to express our support for Eric George Nelson's nomination to serve as Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many of our members are Croats originally from Bosnia and Herzegovina who care deeply about their homeland. We were pleased to learn during the nomination hearing on October 4 that Mr. Nelson plans on expanding prosperity, promoting the rule of law and effective government, improving security, promoting media freedom and assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina on its Euro-Atlantic path.

As an organization which cares deeply about the rule of law, protection of the constitutional order, fight against the corruption and the Euro-Atlantic integrations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we welcome the views and messages Mr. Nelson shared during his nomination hearing. We are pleased that Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as our organization, will have such an experienced diplomat as an ally. We hope to cooperate with Mr. Nelson in promoting our vision of a prosperous, politically self-sufficient and united Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which all three constituent peoples are mutually equal, and in which national minorities are given full rights and protection. We hope that we can meet with Mr. Nelson before his departure and introduce him to our organization and our goals.

Peace in BiH was concluded through the Dayton Peace Agreement, a negotiated power-sharing arrangement which ensured that each of the three constituent nations of BiH (Serbs, Bosniaks and Croats) would share power equally and have their own representation at all levels of government. As you are surely aware, Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently at the crossroads between peace and stability on one side, and unsolvable constitutional crisis and uncertain future on the other side. The Constitutional court of BiH ruling in the "Ljubic" case from December 2016 has still not been implemented by the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. This means that it is not possible to fully implement results of the general election which was held on October 7. Without the implementation of the "Ljubic" ruling, both the Parliament of the Federation of BiH and the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH will not be formed. Moreover, it will be impossible to elect the Government and the President of the Federation of BiH, resulting in the biggest constitutional crisis the country will have ever faced.

We hope that Mr. Nelson will be able to utilize decades of diplomatic experience and act as an honest broker, assisting local politicians with the process of the implementation of the Constitutional court ruling and ensuring that all three constituent peoples, as well as BiH's national minorities, can freely and independently elect their own political representatives, as ordered by the Court and as enshrined in BiH's Constitution.

Sincerely,

John Z. Kosir, President  
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