



# State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

34 Swett Avenue  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Ambassador Piotr Wilczek  
Embassy of the Republic of Poland  
2460 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20009

Aug. 9, 2021

Dear Ambassador Wilczek,

During your time in Washington DC, in your role as ambassador, you are probably aware of some of the criticism addressed to the Polish government regarding its role in protecting the civil and human rights of the residents of Poland. This criticism is not coming only from sources in the USA but also from many other countries, including the European Union (of which Poland is a member)

Poland can be proud of its very impressive record of historical survival including the Nazi era and the subsequent era under Soviet Communism, and finally a democratic government. And Poles throughout the world, have shown themselves to be a highly accomplished and talented people (scientists, doctors and athletes). However, at the same time, Poland as a nation has for too long been isolated from worldwide changes that have expanded both human rights and opportunities in society for people who have been neglected in the past.

As the sponsor of resolution HCR 5 concerning these issues, I want to inform you that the New Hampshire House of Representatives and the New Hampshire Senate both overwhelmingly passed HCR 5, expressing its concerns. Such resolutions in the New Hampshire legislature are very rare, and usually do not have the needed 2/3 vote to even be considered. That this resolution received such strong support underscores the fact, that at least in New Hampshire, the concerns mentioned in the resolution are widely shared. I am including a copy of the resolution for your consideration. However, please allow me to highlight some of the issues addressed in it. According to numerous media reports, the Polish government has encouraged efforts to shut down opposition media outlets and harass the work of NGOs, businesses and journalists who are not supportive of the government. In addition, the European Union has highlighted a number of violations of EU laws regarding an independent judiciary, and the protection of various groups within Polish society.

As a signatory to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as numerous international laws, and your country's obligations to the European Union's civil and human rights laws, I would request that you forward resolution HCR 5 to your government, and would respectfully ask you for a response from that government confirming they are working to comply with those laws.

Sincerely,

Rep. Peter Somssich, Ranking Democratic Member  
House Science Technology & Energy Committee, Rockingham, District 27 /Portsmouth  
tel. 603-436-5382, staterep27nh@gmail.com

CC: Senator Shaheen, Senator Hassan, Congresswoman Kuster, Congressman Pappas