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One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

November 7, 2014

Her Excellency Angela Merkel
Chancellor
Federal Republic of Germany

Dear Madame Chancellor:

I wish to congratulate you and the people of the Federal Republic on the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In the autumn of 1989, no one could imagine exactly how a Europe whole and free would look. The German people have surmounted tremendous challenges in creating the strong, unified democratic state that Germany is today. Your leadership has been key to expanding this progress and building upon the initial strong foundations laid by Chancellor Kohl. In fact, your life and career in politics are testaments that free men and women living in a democratic system can accomplish goals that once seemed unimaginable.

I am proud of the supportive role that America has been able to provide as Germany undertook its transformation, and am deeply pleased that this relationship has evolved into the strong alliance that we currently enjoy. Germany's impressive history has inspired other countries who have worked to overcome a communist dominated past. In that light, the cooperation between your government, the Christian Democratic Union, and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in promoting institutions of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe and other parts of the world is crucially important. This cooperation is particularly significant now, as our focus turns to Ukraine and our countries' advice and support to the Ukrainian people as they continue their reform efforts.

This anniversary also provides an opportunity to convey to younger generations the crucial importance of our alliance with Germany. I would like to reiterate to you that we remain committed today to the vision of a "Europe whole and free", and look forward to working in my role in the U.S. Congress to reinforce our relationship. Congratulations again on this important 25th anniversary, which your friends and allies in the United States celebrate with you and the people of Germany.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Royce".

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman