

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address September 26, 2014 “Ukraine Update”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. Despite a so-called cease fire, media reports of fighting between the Ukraine and Russia continue. Last week, Ukrainian President Petro Porchenko gave an update on the conflict and requested more economic and military aid from NATO and the U.S. to fight the Russian army.

The Obama administration has refused to give any kind of military aid to Ukraine. The Ukrainian people need proper supplies to stand up against the Russian army. That is why earlier this summer, I introduced legislation that would supply the Ukrainian army with equipment to aid them in their struggle against the Russian separatist army. It is my opinion that the Obama administration’s failure to act when Ukrainians need it most will result in a dangerous escalation in the conflict.

I have a vested interest in a strong Ukraine. Over Memorial Day weekend, I traveled to Ukraine to monitor their elections. The people I met were peaceful and committed to the democratic process. I continue to believe that a strong and independent Ukraine is in the best interest of the United States. In fact, I am scheduled to travel there again in late October to monitor a Parliamentary election.

The bottom line is this: Despite Putin’s assertion that Russia has done nothing wrong, it has become abundantly clear that they are behind the intervention in Ukraine.

While our economic sanctions have been a good start, more aid is needed. Ukraine is our ally. It is time we start treating them as such. And as President Porchenko said, "There are moments in history when freedom is more than just a political concept." This is one of those moments.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments on this issue. Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, and as always, may God bless Texas.