

EUROPE AND EURASIA: ENSURING RESOURCES MATCH OBJECTIVES

HEARING BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE, EURASIA, AND EMERGING THREATS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS SECOND SESSION

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EUROPE AND EURASIA: ENSURING RESOURCES MATCH OBJECTIVES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE, EURASIA, AND EMERGING THREATS,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2 o'clock p.m., in room 2200 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Dana Rohrabacher (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. All right.

For decades it's been the policy of the United States to see the countries of Europe and Eurasia increase their liberty. That's been our goal—to find security from hostile foreign coercion and to grow into their economic prosperity.

To achieve this, we have deployed men and women in uniform. We have deployed our tax dollars abroad into these areas for decades and we were resolved that a more secure and peaceful Europe would be increased and that they would increase our own security here at home in the United States.

This afternoon's hearing is to examine the path that has been laid out by President Trump, Secretary of State Pompeo, and Administrator Green for U.S. policy toward Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia—what are our aims and goals and what are the aims and goals that we have as a country in that region, that is, and what advantage we can leverage and what part of the burden from what we do in that area can be borne by our allies themselves and how are the resources our Government has been putting in to that region—how does it match up to the achievements that we have been having in that region.

Earlier this year when the administration unveiled the first fiscal year 2019 budget proposal, the international affairs portion amounted to, roughly, \$42 billion. That was a sizeable top line decrease and contained major reductions for assistance programs and activities inside the region that this subcommittee oversees.

Now, before we get into this any further, I know some of my colleagues will point out that the international affairs portion of the budget is relatively small, implying that waste or unneeded spending must also be small if we have a small budget.

Well, I totally reject that notion. Our Government and, hence, the American people are over \$1 trillion—that's \$21 trillion—in debt. Every dollar that we vote to spend places even a heavier bur-

den on either the taxpayers today or our children, who will eventually pay the bill.

We need to ensure that they are getting every ounce of value that is in any budget that we propose.

From our witnesses today I look forward to learning about the programming in their areas of responsibility and how much of those efforts cost and how much they cost, and how they are furthering the President's agenda and his stated vision to build a stabler partner in the states there and the region and to counter radical Islamic terrorism in Europe and Eurasia.

I want to thank our witnesses for appearing today and all members will have 5 days to submit material for the record.

And we will be introducing the witnesses in a moment and what I am going to do is ask you to keep your testimony down to about 5 minutes. Anything else you want to put in the record will be in the record, and then we will go to one question and answer period once we are all done with your testimony.

So I will now yield to my ranking member, Mr. Meeks, for his opening remarks. After that, I will introduce our witnesses and ask them, as I say, to summarize their testimony.

Mr. SHERMAN. Are there other members of the subcommittee making—

Mr. ROHRABACHER. If there is a request, the answer is yes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Okay.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Okay. Okay. Got it. If we could—Mr. Meeks, being the ranking member, go ahead—5 minutes. If I could ask my other colleagues to make it about 2 minutes. Is that okay? Okay. Thank you very much.

Mr. Meeks.

Mr. MEEKS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling this hearing because the U.S.-Europe-Eurasia relationship remains an important part of global stability in light of efforts by Russia to interfere in our democracies.

The Trump administration has proposed a total fiscal year 2019 budget request for Europe and Eurasia that is at \$424.2 million—a decline of 63 percent from actual funding for 2017. The funding at that time was \$1.1 billion.

I am concerned about this and want to get an understanding from our witnesses today about how this aligns and how it impacts U.S. interests.

The proposed budget calls into question whether or not the State Department will be adequately resourced in Europe and Central Asia at a time when there is an acute need to support our allies and advance U.S. priorities.

The Trump administration's fiscal year 2019 budget leads us to question the ability of USAID and the State Department to execute their missions in the face of the Russia malign influence and the draconian cuts proposed by the President of the United States.

Enshrined both within—within both the USAID and the State Department's mission statements is a commitment to promote democratic values abroad, advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world, foster conditions for stability and progress for the benefit of the American people and people everywhere.

And yet, we hear that some USAID missions in Europe are closing completely and resources are being diverted away from the USAID and the State Department.

Instead, those resources are headed one place—to the Pentagon. Not back to the American people, not going to make a difference with reference to the debt, but going to the Pentagon.

So, in short—because my time is short—and I won't quote all of the decorated American generals who time and time again say a weakened diplomatic corps directly undermines our national security.

I can't understand how the American people are served by a diminished diplomatic community. What I see here plainly by examining this budget is a mishmash of priorities and lack of strategy to support our interests and needs.

Today, some leaders in Europe are leaning toward authoritarianism and are not safeguarding the democratic principles the EU and NATO were founded upon.

We see tactics like cracking down on free speech, attacking the media, shutting down opposition and weakening of judiciaries.

In Poland, we see the backsliding of strong democratic institutions with actions that undermine the pillars of democracy. I've spoken out, for example, about the termination of judges based on their failure to agree with the ruling party.

We know of the disciplining of judges for not ruling against the ruling party, independent media censored and placed in the hands of state affiliates, raids of NGOs and terminated funding based on whether the government disapproves of the community served by the NGO.

With regards to Hungary, on September 12th the European Union—European Parliament voted to censor Hungary and lawmakers denounced Viktor Orban's government as a systemic threat to the rule of law.

This underscores that we must work with our allies to bolster, not undercut, the very values that provide the basis for the United States' partnerships with local governments and their institutions.

We have seen the Kremlin's aggressive efforts to destabilize semi-consolidated democracies and transitional governments like Ukraine, Georgia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Hungary.

Consolidated democracies are not isolated from the same Kremlin aggressions. Baltic and Nordic states, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, Italy are all contending with Russia's anti-democratic efforts.

I do not understand how the administration's proposed budget addresses our shared security objectives and prosperity.

And I hope to hear from our witnesses today how this budget addresses our challenges and prepares us for our challenges of tomorrow.

I'll close with just that I just had lunch with several former prime ministers in the Eastern Europe. All very concerned—all allies, strong allies of ours—all who, you know, even paid their 2 percent to NATO—seriously concerned about what's taking place in regards to this budget and so I'd love to hear from you in that regard.

And I yield back.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Sherman.

Mr. SHERMAN. I want to associate myself with Mr. Meeks' comments about how we need to be spending an adequate amount and more than is put forward in the President's budget on foreign aid in general and the region we are here to discuss.

One of the many reasons—advantages of spending money on foreign aid is we can then go to European countries and push them to do more, pointing out that the United States bears the great burden of world national security—that when in the region we are here to talk about there was mass atrocities in Kosovo and Bosnia, the United States did a—the lion's share of the national security and military effort to save people from ethnic cleansing and, some would say, genocide.

And so I'll want to know from our witnesses what is being done by the State Department to push Europe to do more. This is especially clear because we are asking Europe to do more in Europe.

So the right comparison is not between what we do in Europe and what Europe does in Europe, but what we do in Europe versus what we do in the Americas and what Europe does in Europe, and I don't think that Europe does very much to deal with the great problems of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and the Caribbean.

I'll also be asking our witnesses about the Caucuses, particularly the newly renamed Republic of Artsakh, what efforts you can make to get Treasury to focus on a tax treaty for Armenia, and while it's outside the purview of this subcommittee I will sneak in a question for Ms. Puma about Sindh and Pakistan because I know that that is in your area, and my colleagues will forgive me for asking a question on that.

I yield back.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Ms. Kelly.

Ms. KELLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing today on foreign assistance budget requests for Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia.

I was disappointed to see the President's request of foreign assistance for this region represent a 28 percent decrease from the fiscal year 2018 funding levels.

Countries like Ukraine and Georgia, which have experienced direct conflict with Russia are subject to substantial cuts. Georgia, in particular, will be subject to a 25 percent cut in funding.

These cuts are not a return to average. They would fall far below the average of the past 10 years.

Many countries in Europe and Central Asia are at pivotal moments to either open their governments to democracy or retreat into autocratic tendencies.

The United States should not step back from engaging and pushing countries to adopt open markets and good government practices. Now is the time to invest in the long-term benefits of a stable and prosperous Europe and Central Asia.

Thank you to the witnesses today on their work in Europe and Central Asia, and I want to thank you all for your hard work that you bring—that you bring positive change to the region.

I yield back.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. And thank you to our members who have shown up. This is a discussion and not just testimony and not just

back and forth. We are going to have—and we appreciate we have some great witnesses to help us lead this discussion.

Brock Bierman is the Assistant Administrator for USAID's Bureau for Europe and Eurasia. Before coming to his current position, Mr. Bierman served in multiple capacities with FEMA and USAID and the Department of Interior and in the private sector as well.

And Janine Wynne is the Acting Coordinator for the Office of Assistance Coordination for Europe—there you are, okay—for Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia. Ms. Wynne is also the Director of the Office of Policy and Global Issues inside the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. She is a senior civil servant with a long track record within the executive branch.

And then we have Ann Marie Yastishock—I mispronounce it every time—there you go, but that's okay. My name is Rohrabacher and everybody mispronounces that. So and she's a career member of the senior Foreign Service and currently serves as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Asia within USAID. And prior to joining the Asia Bureau, she served as the Deputy Mission Director of the regional USAID office covering Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, and Cyprus.

And Emilia Puma—there you are—is the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asia. She is also a career member of the senior Foreign Policy Service.

Since joining the State Department in 1991 she has held a wide range of posts including assignments in Spain, Kosovo, and Italy, among others.

So we have some real pros with us today and I want to thank you for sharing your experience with us and your judgment, and if you could do that, as I say, for 5 minutes, that'll be helpful and then we will have a discussion—a dialogue.

Ms. Wynne, you may proceed.

**STATEMENT OF MS. JANINE WYNNE, ACTING COORDINATOR,
OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO EUROPE AND EURASIA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Ms. WYNNE. Thank you, Chairman Rohrabacher, Ranking Member Meeks, and members of the subcommittee for the opportunity to testify today on the President's fiscal year 2019 budget request for Europe and Eurasia.

I deeply appreciate your interest, commitment, and strong bipartisan support for our region and the work we are doing to protect our national interests. I would ask that you please submit my written testimony for the record.

As reflected in the President's national security strategy, the principal goal of U.S. engagement with Europe is to preserve the West as a community of nations united by shared sacrifice and a commitment to common defense, democratic values, fair trade, and shared interests.

While making America more prosperous and secure is work that starts at home, preserving the West cannot happen without our allies and partners in Europe. A strong and free Europe is vital to American interests.

The President's fiscal year 2019 foreign assistance request of \$424.2 million for Europe and Eurasia supports the President's pri-

ority of enhancing the safety and security of the American people, which includes advancing our vision of a Europe that is strong and free.

To this end, we will pursue six main goals.

First, we will strive to strengthen the Western Alliance and compete effectively for positive influence by working with our NATO allies to ensure that the alliance is ready and willing to defend itself.

Second, we will strengthen and balance the trans-Atlantic trade and investment relationship between the United States and Europe.

The President's fiscal year 2019 foreign assistance request supports this goal, with over \$117 million in economic growth assistance. With these funds, we will establish a level playing field that allows American companies to compete and create jobs and strengthen the energy security of our European allies and partners.

Third, we must secure the eastern frontier of Europe where Russia and others increasingly seek to sow and exploit division, destabilize Europe and weaken Western cohesion.

Our foreign assistance request reflects these priorities, with over \$252 million going toward supporting the front line states of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova, where Russia's aggression and pressure are the greatest, and nearly \$78 million to support stability in the Western Balkans and advance their Western integration.

Ukraine is engaged in an internal struggle to implement a broad range of economic, anti-corruption, judicial, and governance reforms, even as it faces continued Russian aggression and pressure.

Our fiscal year 2019 foreign assistance request of \$204 million for Ukraine is a tangible sign of our steadfast resolve to stand with the Ukrainians and their democratic aspirations.

While the government has put in place many considerable reforms over the last 4 years, it still has much to do, including implementing anti-corruption laws, adjusting gas tariffs, and reducing budget deficits in line with IMF requirements, and ensuring upcoming elections are free and fair.

We remain committed to Ukraine's territorial integrity, and since 2014, we have provided over \$1 billion in training and equipment to Ukraine to help it defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, to better monitor and secure its borders, and to deploy its forces more safely and effectively.

Our fiscal year 2019 request continues to support these aims including \$20 million in foreign military financing assistance.

In Georgia, we have a steadfast partner whose efforts to reform are one of the good news stories in a tough neighborhood. Our fiscal year 2019 assistance request of just over \$31 million will continue to help Georgia counter Russian aggression by diversifying its economy and fostering a business environment that is grounded in rule of law and friendly to American businesses.

Our continuing support to our Western Balkans partners prioritizes advancing the normalization of Kosovo-Serbia relations and their integration into the Western community of nations.

We will continue to facilitate political reform and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and work with Greece and Macedonia

to implement the Prespa agreement, resolving the name dispute, and so unblock the path to Macedonia's euro-Atlantic integration.

And we will keep working with partners to enhance the region's capabilities, to fight organized crime, corruption, and terrorism.

Finally, securing Europe's eastern frontier also means supporting the democratic aspirations of the people of Armenia including preserving their freedom to choose further integration with the West.

Our fourth strategic goal is to work with allies, the EU, and partners to stabilize the southern frontier where recent migration flows have sent ripples through the heart of Europe, even as Russian competition in the eastern Med is increasing.

Fifth, we will uphold Western democratic principles and institutions, which are key to our security and prosperity. In line with this goal, our fiscal year 2019 foreign assistance requests includes over \$150 million to support democracy and governance reforms in the region.

Finally, our success in achieving all of these goals will depend heavily on maintaining the confidence of the American people who have entrusted the Department of State and USAID with their taxpayer dollars in support of our national security objectives.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Wynne follows:]

Written Statement
Janine Wynne
Acting Coordinator
Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia
U.S. Department of State

“Europe and Eurasia: Ensuring Resources Match Objectives”
Hearing before the
House Foreign Affairs Committee
Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats
September 27, 2018

Chairman Rohrabacher, Ranking Member Meeks, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the President’s FY 2019 budget request for Europe and Eurasia. I deeply appreciate your interest, commitment, and strong bipartisan support for our region, and the work we are doing to protect our national interests.

As reflected in the President’s National Security Strategy, the principal goal of U.S. engagement with Europe is to preserve the West as a community of nations united by shared sacrifice and a commitment to common defense, democratic values, fair trade, and shared interests. America and Europe are the West and the heart of the free world. While making America more prosperous and secure is work that starts at home, preserving the West cannot happen without our Allies and partners in Europe. With more than \$5.5 trillion in annual commerce, Europe is the central pillar of our international alliances, and by far our largest economic partner. There is no major foreign policy challenge in which America and Europe can hope to succeed without each other. A strong and free Europe is vital to American interests.

Our strategy in Europe is based on the recognition that Europe is a theater of geopolitical competition, and that the United States and Europe must confront our shared threats together. The President’s FY 2019 foreign assistance request of **\$424.2 million for Europe and Eurasia** supports the President’s priority of enhancing the safety and security of the American people, which includes advancing our vision of a Europe that is strong and free. To this end, we will marshal both our foreign assistance resources and our diplomatic engagement with the sovereign nations of Europe to make progress on six main goals.

First, we will strive to strengthen the Western alliance and compete effectively for positive influence by working with our NATO Allies to ensure that the alliance is ready and willing to defend itself. This means NATO Allies meeting their defense spending commitments. It means strengthening our collective capacity to counter the range of threats, including conventional, nuclear, hybrid, and cyber. It means ensuring the lasting defeat of ISIS and other transnational terrorist organizations. Finally, it means working with our Allies and partners to apply decisive pressure to convince the DPRK and Iran to abandon their current threatening and destabilizing paths.

Second, we will strengthen and balance the transatlantic trade and investment relationship between the United States and Europe. Competing successfully in this new era of Great Power Competition depends on keeping our economy strong and securing our Allies' and partners' energy sources. The President's FY 2019 foreign assistance request supports this goal with **over \$117 million in economic growth assistance**. We must work with our European partners to eliminate inequities and imbalances in our trade relations, and use both our diplomatic tools and foreign assistance to establish a level playing field that allows American companies to compete and create jobs, spurring growth on both sides of the Atlantic. Energy security for our European Allies and partners is also vital. To that end, we will support projects that strengthen European energy security, such as the Southern Gas Corridor, and oppose those like Nord Stream 2, or the second line of TurkStream, that weaken it. We will promote fuel diversification, new delivery routes, and alternative sources. We will find ways to reduce energy demand and encourage a transparent regulatory environment in Europe that promotes investment. Taking these steps is vital to making our Allies and partners less susceptible to pressure from outside powers that only seek their own benefit, rather than furthering mutual interests and values.

Third, we must secure the Eastern frontier of Europe where Russia and others increasingly seek to sow and exploit division, destabilize Europe, and weaken Western cohesion. From the Caucasus and Ukraine through the Balkans and up through the Danube Basin to the Baltics, Europe's Eastern frontier is a renewed geopolitical focus for Russia and a new destination for strategically motivated investment from China. To defend this frontier we must build up the means of self-defense for nations most directly affected, including Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova, while also helping our increasingly vulnerable partners in the Western Balkans put to rest regional and internal conflicts and further integrate with the West. **Our foreign assistance request reflects these priorities, with over \$252 million going towards supporting the frontline states of Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, where Russia's aggression and pressure are the greatest, and nearly \$78 million to support stability in the Western Balkans, and advance their Western integration.**

Through our diplomacy and assistance to these states, we are helping them become more resilient in the face of malign activities. Our efforts include fortifying their political systems to foster fair and transparent competition among the full range of democratic parties, countering disinformation and supporting independent media, diversifying energy grids, improving the readiness of their military and cyber defenses, and encouraging regional coordination to confront shared challenges. Similarly, through our public engagement, we provide viable alternatives to Russian and Chinese malign activities. This includes strengthening the bonds of friendship and common values with the peoples of Europe and Eurasia, including those generations for whom the memory of 1989 and NATO enlargement is distant, or nonexistent.

Ukraine is engaged in an internal struggle to implement a broad range of economic, anti-corruption, judicial, and governance reforms, even as it faces continued Russian aggression and pressure. Our FY 2019 foreign assistance request of \$204 million for Ukraine is a tangible sign of our steadfast resolve to stand with Ukrainians and their democratic aspirations. While the government has put in place many considerable reforms over the last four years, it has much still to do. Ukraine's passage of laws on an anti-corruption court and foundational Law on National Security earlier this year were steps in the right direction, but implementation will be key. We are hopeful there will soon be an agreement with the IMF to adjust gas tariffs and budget deficits, thereby unlocking the next round of IMF funding. Similarly, free and fair 2019 elections in Ukraine are a litmus test of Ukrainian officials' commitment to the

people's demand for democratic reform, rule of law, and accountability. Our assistance will support free, fair, and inclusive election processes, enhance public confidence in the next Ukrainian government, build national unity, counter Russian propaganda and cyber-attacks, and sustain momentum for key reforms.

Furthermore, in response to Russian aggression, the United States has committed over \$1 billion in training and equipment since 2014 to help Ukraine defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, better monitor and secure its borders, and deploy its forces more safely and effectively. The goal of U.S. security assistance in Ukraine is to support its sovereignty and territorial integrity through train, equip, and advise efforts that make Ukraine's Armed Forces more capable and professional, and support defense institutional reform. Our FY 2019 request supports these aims, including **\$20 million in Foreign Military Financing assistance** for Ukraine.

In Georgia, we have a steadfast partner whose efforts to reform are one of the good news stories in a tough neighborhood. Our **FY 2019 assistance request of just over \$31 million** will help Georgia counter Russian aggression by diversifying its economy, fostering a business environment that is grounded in rule of law and friendly to American businesses, and gives rural communities susceptible to Russian malign activities new economic opportunities. U.S. assistance will also strengthen the rule of law by helping to make Georgia's laws and courts fair and independent. Our support will improve Georgia's energy security by developing renewable energy sources, connecting it with the European energy market, and optimizing distribution networks. Our security assistance from prior year appropriations enables Georgian forces to work more seamlessly and effectively alongside American and NATO troops in NATO missions, improve their territorial defense capacity, and protect Georgia's borders. Finally, U.S. support will bolster civil society, enabling it to act as a constructive monitor of government actions and policies; to advance peace and stability through non-violent resolution of conflicts; and to help Georgian journalists to report ethically and accurately.

In Moldova, we are working to help the country become democratic and prosperous, secure within its internationally recognized borders, governed by effective, transparent, and accountable institutions, and guided by the Western-oriented aspirations of its people. Our **FY 2019 assistance request of just over \$17 million** reflects these objectives. In the face of entrenched corruption and pervasive Russian malign activities, the challenges are great. Nevertheless, we continue to push for hard reforms, including those needed to decisively repair Moldova's financial system, improve its economic governance and business climate, and attract domestic and foreign investment, including opportunities for American businesses.

Our continuing support to our Western Balkan partners prioritizes advancing the normalization of Kosovo-Serbia relations and their integration into the Western community of nations; facilitating political reform and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; implementing the Prespa Agreement resolving the name dispute between Macedonia and Greece and unblocking the path to Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic integration; and enhancing the region's capabilities to fight organized crime, corruption, and terrorism. Corruption is the currency of Russian malign activities in the Balkans, and it is a serious threat to democratic systems and stability. To root it out, we are working with national governments to improve transparency and accountability; and with civil society and independent media, to lead the charge for reforms and root out corrupt actors. Exposing corruption through investigative journalism has become a key mechanism for ensuring the stability and legitimacy of democracies throughout the region.

Finally, pursuing this goal also means supporting the democratic aspirations of the people of Armenia, including support to ensure that the upcoming elections are free and fair; and preserving their freedom to choose further integration with the West. It means staying in the game in places where the challenges are tough and peoples' democratic aspirations are under pressure, like Azerbaijan and Belarus. In such countries, we will continue to compete for positive influence and seek to preserve the possibility of a democratic future.

Our fourth strategic goal is to work with our Allies, the EU, and partners to stabilize the Southern frontier, where recent migration flows have sent ripples through the heart of Europe, even as Russian competition in the Eastern Mediterranean is increasing. This includes working with nations like Italy to build a shared, multi-prong initiative on migration that addresses all aspects of the challenge, from onshore North Africa/Middle East stability, to better coordination of NATO, EU, and bilateral aid to boost maritime and border security, to building the capacity of our southern partners to fight terrorism and deny terrorists safe haven. We must also establish a stronger, long-term U.S. strategic presence in the Eastern Mediterranean. To do so, our diplomatic priorities include stabilizing the U.S.-Turkey relationship and keeping Turkey anchored in the West, which will require the release of our unjustly detained U.S. citizens and three locally employed staff.

Beyond Turkey, we also prioritize cultivating Greece as an anchor of stability in the region; cementing the integration of the Western Balkans' within Western institutions; and supporting a process in Cyprus to establish a bizonal, bicomunal federation.

Fifth, we will uphold Western democratic principles and institutions, which are key to our security and prosperity. Preserving the West is not just a material undertaking. The cause of democracy increases America's security and prosperity as well. Yet these values are under threat in a way we did not foresee in 1989. To counter this threat, we will continue to defend fundamental individual liberties, such as freedom of speech and the press, and religion, against abuses by state power and other threats. While we will not impose our values on others, we will offer our partnership to those who share them. In line with this goal, our **FY 2019 foreign assistance request includes over \$150 million to support democracy and governance reforms in the region.**

Finally, our success in achieving all of these goals depends heavily on maintaining the confidence of the American people, who have entrusted to the Department of State and USAID their taxpayer dollars in support of our national security. To this end, we will innovate in our management and use of information technology to centralize services and reduce costs. We will also seek to strengthen country self-reliance through our assistance programs so that our aid is ultimately no longer needed, and recipients become full members of the Western community of nations, working with us to uphold Western democratic principles and institutions around the world.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much.
Ms. Puma.

STATEMENT OF MS. EMILIA PUMA, ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BUREAU OF SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ms. PUMA. Chairman Rohrabacher, Ranking Member Meeks, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to appear today to discuss the administration's fiscal year 2019 budget request for Central Asia.

I have submitted prepared remarks for the record as well. Today my testimony will cover our request for Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Turkmenistan.

I want to begin by extending my heartfelt sympathies to the families of the two American citizens killed in Tajikistan in a senseless terrorism act last July. We stand with those families and are working closely with Tajik authorities in the ongoing investigation. Both victims were brave individuals who represented the best of America.

The administration recognizes the critical role Central Asia plays in the world economy and political system. Neighboring Russia, China, Iran, and Afghanistan, these five proud nations have sought to maintain their sovereignty by navigating a quickly changing political landscape.

Central Asia is experiencing a period of profound transformation. Depressed petroleum prices have increased the demand to diversify their economies. We continue to dedicate resources to building the region's hydropower potential, linking surplus hydropower resources in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic with the energy-hungry markets of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Political transitions are also underway. We are encouraged by the bold reforms championed by the President of Uzbekistan in economic development, rule of law, and human rights.

Through his leadership, Uzbekistan is pursuing a neighbors-first strategy, seeking to put an end to decades-old border disputes.

We appreciate Uzbekistan's desire to support an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned negotiation to bring the war to a close and we continue to explore ways to work with Uzbekistan to help them achieve these goals.

For fiscal year 2019, the department request \$66.3 million for Central Asia. This includes \$15.5 million for Tajikistan, the country in greatest need of development assistance, bordering Afghanistan and China.

Assistance increases stability and economic growth, supports food security, and combats the spread of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis. This also includes \$10.6 million for Uzbekistan in support of their reform agenda including justice sector reforms, sustainable employment, and economic reforms. Assistance will, likewise, combat transnational crime including narcotics and trafficking in persons.

For the Kyrgyz Republic, the administration requests \$10.5 million to accelerate their economic growth. Assistance will also promote stability, regional security, civil society, human rights, and the rule of law.

For Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, the administration requests \$1.7 million and \$.4 million, respectively, to support their export controls and related border security as well as military-to-military training.

Finally, the administration requests \$27.5 million in regional funding for Central Asia to support efforts in economic connectivity, democracy in governance, stability and security, and to counter violent extremism.

Funding would also address the spread of HIV/AIDS and support the organization for security and cooperation in Europe.

Central Asia is a vital element of our South Asia strategy and our efforts to create a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan.

But Central Asia itself is a welcoming culturally-rich land of enormous economic potential. We welcome the subcommittee's review of our fiscal year 2019 budget request and look forward to working together to support this region.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Puma follows:]

**Written Testimony of Emilia A. Puma
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs
Before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee for
Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats
Thursday, September 27, 2018**

Chairman Rohrabacher, Ranking Member Meeks, and members of the subcommittee – thank you for inviting me to appear before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee for Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats to discuss the Administration’s FY 2019 Budget Request for Central Asia and our regional efforts. Today, my testimony will cover our requests for Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, and our regional efforts in Central Asia.

I want to begin by extending my heartfelt sympathies to the families of the two American citizens killed in Danghara, Tajikistan in a senseless act of terrorism last July. We stand with the families of the victims and are working closely with Tajik authorities in the ongoing investigation. Both victims were brave individuals who represented the best of America to this critical part of the world.

Central Asia – Reforms and Openings

The Administration’s South Asia Strategy leverages Afghanistan’s shared history and economic, political, and cultural connections with the five countries of Central Asia. The Administration recognizes the critical role these countries play in the world economy and political system, as well as their historical role as an essential part of the Silk Road that connected Western and Eastern markets through overland trade. Neighboring Russia, China, Iran, and Afghanistan, these five proud nations have sought to maintain their sovereignty by navigating a quickly changing political landscape.

I was privileged to witness the culture and traditions of these countries in September when I represented the United States at the biannual World Nomad Games in the Kyrgyz Republic. Americans, including cowboys, archers, and Peace Corps volunteers competed in traditional nomadic sports such as falconry, wrestling, and sports on horseback. Our delegation, team, and cultural performers were warmly welcomed by the peoples of Central Asia, who were eager to learn more about American culture. Such interactions help dispel stereotypes and misinformation, and provide an opportunity to demonstrate our respect for the cultures of the region. Our attendance reinforced U.S. commitment to the region;

and our Kyrgyz hosts expressed their deep appreciation and viewed our visit as an important step towards improving bilateral relations. The greatest assets of U.S. diplomacy in the region are our presence, access, and the promise of America itself.

I also witnessed the generosity and leadership of Central Asians when I attended the Afghan Women's Empowerment Forum in Kazakhstan, where Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump lent her support through a well-received video statement. This oil-rich Caspian state has long been a regional and global leader, in no small part because of its decision to renounce its legacy nuclear weapons at independence and become a model in nonproliferation. Today, Kazakhstan is using its wealth and influence to support our South Asia Strategy in Afghanistan, helping train Afghan security forces and empower Afghan women. I was impressed by the joint project of the European Union, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan to provide vocational training and education to Afghan women, as well as Kazakhstan's commitment to expanding its scholarship program for Afghan women.

Central Asia is experiencing a period of profound transformation. Depressed petroleum prices have strained hydrocarbon based economies, increasing the demand to diversify those economies toward other sectors. Our assistance request continues to help these countries pursue diversified and sustainable economic growth. Similarly, we continue to dedicate assistance resources to building the region's hydropower potential, with the aim of linking surplus hydropower resources in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic with the energy-hungry markets of Afghanistan and Pakistan. We will continue to support the liberalization of these countries' economies and high-standards of infrastructure driven by free market demand.

Political transitions are also underway. We are encouraged by the bold reforms championed by Uzbekistan's President Mirziyoyev, including in the areas of economic development, rule of law, and human rights. Through his leadership, Uzbekistan is pursuing a "Neighbors First" strategy, seeking to put to an end to decades-old border disputes. He has taken on a constructive leadership role in the region, meeting with neighboring heads of state regularly and signing historic accords, including on sharing water resources and clearing minefields. We appreciate Uzbekistan's desire to support Afghan-led and owned negotiations to bring the war to a close, and we continue to explore ways to work with Uzbekistan to help achieve those goals.

The United States continues support of the “C5+1” regional diplomatic platform that brings together the United States and the five states of Central Asia. This platform catalyzes economic, environmental and security cooperation through assistance and engagement. The underlying goal of the C5+1 is to help Central Asian states maintain sovereignty and to improve cooperation with each other to help resist economic and political pressures from Russia. The C5+1 framework also encourages expanding economic, energy and security linkages, to help secure and stabilize Central Asia’s borders, and stem the trafficking of illicit goods, including narcotics. We continue to support Central Asia’s efforts to control its borders and defend its security.

FY 2019 Budget Request

For FY 2019, the Department requests \$66.3 million for Central Asia. This is a \$9.8 million reduction (12.9 percent) from our FY 2018 request.

- This includes \$15.5 million for Tajikistan, the country in greatest need of development assistance, which borders both Afghanistan and China. Assistance increases stability and economic growth in Tajikistan, supports food security, and combats the spread of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.
- This includes \$10.6 million for Uzbekistan to support President Mirziyoyev’s reform agenda, including justice sector reforms, diversification in agriculture, sustainable employment, and economic reforms that promote the private sector and attract trade and foreign direct investment. Assistance will also strengthen forensics capabilities and combat transnational crime, including trafficking in persons and narcotics.
- For the Kyrgyz Republic, the Administration requests \$10.5 million to enhance the competitiveness of small enterprises, to accelerate business growth and create jobs. Assistance will also promote stability, regional security, civil society, human rights, and the rule of law.
- For Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, the Administration requests \$1.7 million and \$0.4 million respectively, to support their export controls and related border security, as well as military-to-military training.
- Finally, the Administration requests a total of \$27.5 million in regional funding for Central Asia including:
 - \$6.8 million to support C5+1 regional cooperation efforts in economic connectivity, energy, and democracy and governance;
 - \$9.8 million to fund cross-border programs that leverage donor support for stability and security, counter violent extremism, and combat transnational crime;

- \$4.5 million to address the spread of HIV/AIDS and protect against infectious diseases; and
- \$6.5 million to support the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's efforts to promote democracy and human rights, protect minorities, and advance media freedom.

Looking Forward

Central Asia is an important element of our South Asia Strategy and our efforts to create a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan integrated economically in the region. But Central Asia itself is a welcoming, culturally rich land of enormous economic potential. We welcome the Subcommittee's review of our FY 2019 budget request, and look forward to working together to support this vitally important region.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Thank you for your testimony.
Mr. Bierman.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE BROCK BIERMAN, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, BUREAU FOR EUROPE AND EURASIA, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. BIERMAN. Chairman Rohrabacher and Ranking Member Meeks, on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you to be able to testify today and I would ask that my written remarks be included for the record.

I would like to start off by paraphrasing the great observer of democracy, Alexis de Tocqueville, who noted that true friends of liberty must remain constantly vigilant and ready.

As I will outline in my remarks, USAID remains vigilant and ready to assist our partners in Europe and Eurasia. Before I get into more detail, I would like to highlight three points from my confirmation hearing last November.

First, I spoke about the challenges of countering Kremlin malign influence, and I will speak about that later.

Second, I committed to focusing on youth programs and how we will build the next generation of leaders in our region. This commitment is coming to fruition through our European Democracy Youth Network, now known as EDYN.

Democracy demands a commitment from every generation to public service and their willingness to enter into dialogue with those who hold opposing views.

The EDYN program will build a network of youth leadership across the region that will do exactly that.

And third, I committed to strengthening communications with Congress, and over the last several months we have had high-level engagements including conversations with both you and your staff, and I look forward to continuing this effort and deepening our relationship.

Mr. Chairman, over the past two and a half decades, the countries of E&E have made incredible strides. Half of our region partner countries have graduated from USAID assistance and joined institutions such as NATO and the European Union. They are all now close allies and key trading partners of the United States.

USAID is proud of the role and its profound transformation in this process. In response to the progress, the Kremlin is stepping up efforts to undermine the gains and, for example, let me just give you a couple of examples.

Frustrated farmers in northern Azerbaijan have personally told me that Russia frequently manipulates and restricts water supplies, and in July, Russia prevented truckloads of fresh apricots from crossing the border, wiping out farmers' entire livelihoods. And last year, Russian cyber attacks in Ukraine infected 60 countries worldwide, causing billions of dollars of damage.

Thus, while this budget is fiscally conservative, USAID stands vigilant and ready to achieve our U.S. foreign policy objectives by helping these countries consolidate democratic progress, increase their economic—and increasing their economic integration to the West.

And so now let me cover the region. Ukraine continues to struggle with numerous fundamental challenges, particularly in the intense political, economic, and military pressure from Russia.

Our assistance helps Ukraine to resist these pressures on its chosen path toward prosperity, democracy, and closer ties with the West.

In particular, we continue to focus on reducing corruption, fostering much-needed decentralization, and spurring economic community development in conflicted areas in eastern Ukraine.

Now, turning to Georgia, the request supports U.S. foreign policy objectives within the country by resisting malign Kremlin influence, further consolidating democratic and economic gains and enhancing energy security.

Specifically, we are building on gains of increasing dynamic economy by promoting competitiveness and export potential and at the same time we are strengthening civil society to enhance rule of law by supporting a fourth wave of judicial reform.

Now, moving on to Moldova, the request will support independent media, strengthening democratic institutions, and build more competitive economy integrating into Europe and diversify its energy supply.

I must also note of the recent mayoral election in Chisinau which was unfairly annulled, and it's a warning sign of backsliding in the region. Thus, we will be carefully watching Moldova's democratic process before and after the parliamentary elections in February.

Turning to the Western Balkans, USAID programs address the challenging and fragile institutions, weak growth, and rule of law, endemic corruption, and limited media freedoms in addition to responding to the issues of violent extremism, and increased Russian influence in the region.

Next, I would just like to note two hopeful cases. In just a few days Macedonia will vote on a referendum which will clear the way for progress in the NATO and the EU. USAID is working with the state election commission to ensure integrity of this referendum.

In Armenia, thanks to democratic breakthroughs, this past spring when citizens peacefully gathered to demand political change, the new government appears committed to reforms and USAID will harness this momentum in Armenia by encouraging this civic engagement of newly mobilized citizens and providing targeted assistance to the government and civil society organizations.

Next, I want to also note some changes taking place at USAID and how they will benefit the region. The agency's new transformation initiative titled "Journey to Self-Reliance" will create conditions for partner countries to lead, finance, and implement their own development agendas.

Key aspects include fostering democratic resources—key democratic resource base to sustain development, and expanding engagement in collaborative design with private sector.

Mr. Chairman, before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about our countering Kremlin influence development framework. This framework will guide our programming to help countries withstand the Kremlin's interference.

Priorities include strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law, expanding independent media, combatting corruption, increasing energy security, diversifying the economic sector, and advancing integration with the West.

And finally, by noting that although the countries in the region boast many development achievements and successes, much remains to be done. Many of those successes, while impressive, are partial and subject to reversal.

This budget request ensures USAID's vigilance and readiness to build a more democratic and prosperous Europe and Eurasia.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bierman follows:]

**Statement of the Honorable Brock Bierman
Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia
U.S. Agency for International Development
House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats
“Europe and Eurasia: Ensuring Resources Match Objectives”
September 27, 2018**

Chairman Rohrabacher and Ranking Member Meeks, on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify today on behalf of the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget request for Europe and Eurasia.

Mr. Chairman, the great observer of democracy Alexis de Tocqueville once stated, “It is above all in the present democratic age that the true friends of liberty and human grandeur must remain constantly vigilant and ready...” This observation remains true today, and USAID remains vigilant and ready at this key moment to assist our partners in the Europe and Eurasia region.

Before I go into more detail, I would like to revisit three key points I made at my confirmation hearing. First, I spoke about the challenge of the Kremlin’s malign external influence in the region. Later in my remarks I will speak about our intense focus on this issue and our new framework for Countering Kremlin Influence.

Second, I committed to a focus on youth and to ensuring that we are targeting our resources on the next generation of leaders. This commitment is now coming to fruition in the form of our new European Democracy Youth Network (EDYN). Democracy demands from every generation a commitment not only to public service, but also a willingness to enter into dialogue with those who hold opposing views. The EDYN will build a network of youth civic leaders across the region to unite, share ideas and encourage constructive dialogue.

Third, I committed to strengthening communication with Congress. Over the last several months of my tenure, we have had high levels of engagement with Congress, including conversations with you and your staff. I look forward to continuing and deepening that dialogue.

Mr. Chairman, over the past two and half decades the countries of the Europe and Eurasia region have made enormous strides in overcoming major social, economic and political challenges on their paths toward full Euro-Atlantic integration. Half of our original partner countries no longer receive USAID assistance and joined institutions such as NATO and the European Union (EU). Many are now close allies and key trading partners of the United States. USAID is proud of the role it has played in the profound transformation that has taken place in the region over the last 25 years.

In spite of the progress we are making throughout the region, many of the countries where we work remain vulnerable, and important achievements are now at risk. The Kremlin’s malign foreign policy disrupts and subverts its neighbors’ economics and political systems. For example, farmers in northern Azerbaijan who are dependent on the Samur River report that Russia frequently manipulates and restricts water supplies in an effort to exert economic and political pressure on Azerbaijan and its people. Through

a similar pattern of manipulative border control, at the height of apricot season this July, Russia stalled trucks from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia at the border while the fresh fruit from local farmers rotted alongside the road, effectively wiping out the source of their livelihood.

Thus, while this budget represents a shift towards greater fiscal restraint, USAID is focused on the Administration's key priorities of protecting U.S. national security, fostering opportunities for U.S. businesses, leveraging resources of global stakeholders, embracing the private sector as a key driver of sustainable development, and focusing on providing maximum value to the U.S. taxpayer.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to start by discussing what we refer to as our “frontline” states: Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia. These are countries where Kremlin interference is at its most intense, and which face the most serious challenges in resisting Moscow’s pressure.

Russia’s use of force to attempt to change borders in Ukraine and its occupation of the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia violates the sovereignty of these countries and interferes with their efforts to move forward on the path toward Euro-Atlantic integration. Russia has also failed to withdraw all of its forces from Moldova, consistent with its 1999 Istanbul OSCE Summit commitments. The FY 2019 request will allow USAID to continue to support reforms to their political systems, strengthen their economies, and enable them to better resist malign Kremlin influence.

The FY 2019 request seeks \$204 million for Ukraine and demonstrates America’s commitment to assist the country on its chosen path toward prosperity, democracy, freedom and integration with the West. Ukraine continues to struggle with numerous challenges, particularly with high levels of corruption as well as the intense political, economic and military pressures resulting from Russian aggression.

Despite these challenges, among the notable successes achieved last year with our support, Ukraine further decentralized its government, bringing increased revenues and authorities into the hands of citizens in 665 newly consolidated communities. USAID programs assisted communities in the consolidation process, advised on the efficient allocation of increased budget revenues, and promoted local economic development. Our assistance has helped bring about an increase in local revenues, which rose by \$1.6 billion in 2017 as compared to the previous year, bringing local government budgets to a total of \$6.9 billion.

In eastern Ukraine we helped local communities improve 16 new, modern administrative services centers in order to more efficiently deliver services and reduce opportunities for corruption. Over one million citizens from both the government and Russia-controlled areas of the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine are now receiving better services as a result of this intervention.

The FY 2019 request will allow USAID to continue to build on these successes and address the divisive impacts of Russian aggression and the consequences of the ongoing armed conflict through activities that build a Ukraine that is more united around democratic reforms, European integration, and common civic values. Focusing on eastern and southern Ukraine, USAID will continue to mitigate the challenges associated with conflict and promote greater consensus and unity among Ukrainians, both in conflict-affected communities and across the country.

Turning to Georgia, USAID supports our foreign policy objectives by sustaining Georgia's progress on democratic consolidation, economic growth, Western integration, and territorial integrity. The FY 2019 request of \$31 million represents a substantial investment in the country's ongoing efforts to: (1) consolidate economic gains; (2) enhance energy security from Kremlin interference; and (3) and strengthen democratic institutions. In recent years, Georgia has made great strides toward Euro-Atlantic integration, holding two free and fair elections, signing an EU Association Agreement, and earning visa-free travel to the EU for its citizens.

The FY 2019 request will permit USAID to continue to support inclusive, sustainable economic growth and energy security. Our investments will focus on areas such as agriculture; small and medium-sized enterprises; developing a more competitive Georgian workforce; and improving the business-enabling environment. U.S. assistance will also target those sectors that will encourage U.S. private sector investments, and those which show the most potential to stimulate the Georgian economy, such as the service industry, light manufacturing, and logistics. Finally, our programming will increase energy security by advancing the production of local renewable energy, and by promoting inter-regional connectivity and trade diversification to reduce reliance on Russian resources.

The President's request will further allow USAID to strengthen Georgia's democracy. It will work to enhance the rule of law; advance Georgia's commitment to the Open Government Partnership; support civil society participation and advocacy for citizen-centered legislation and reforms; and assist independent media in countering Kremlin-sponsored disinformation.

Some of the major successes we had this past year in Georgia include the following:

In the agricultural sector, we made some remarkable achievements. We facilitated the extension of agricultural credit to nearly 80,000 farmers, leveraged \$12 million in private sector investments, and facilitated \$26 million in export sales of agricultural products.

In the judicial sector, USAID made impressive gains, including supporting amendments to laws that improved judicial appointment processes, transparency of the judiciary, and rules governing judicial transfers. As a result of civic advocacy supported by USAID, the new Georgian constitution has better descriptions of the concepts of discrimination and the right to a fair trial.

The President's budget request of \$17 million for Moldova will seek to counter Kremlin influence and disinformation by supporting independent media, and diversifying the economic sector and its energy supply. Assistance is critical for countering disinformation campaigns and increasing public awareness of the benefits of integration with Europe.

Our assistance will bolster the capacity of local public administrators in Moldova and improve the relationships between citizens and their local governments. These efforts will help increase civic engagement at the grassroots level and enhance the effectiveness of local governments. Our assistance will also work to bolster local civil society, especially in rural areas.

USAID will also support the growth and development of targeted industries and the diversification of the economic sector. This diversification will help Moldova reposition its focus to new markets. This support will also encourage Moldovan producers to adopt Western standards and infuse new technologies into the Moldovan economy. Importantly, our economic growth programming will also create stronger import and export opportunities for American businesses by improving the business enabling environment, streamlining procedures and reducing corruption, and as a result, the cost of doing business.

A major indicator of the success of our work in Moldova last year was the percentage of Moldova's exports to the EU reaching an astounding 67 percent. USAID has helped decrease the Kremlin's economic leverage over Moldova, rendering the Kremlin's persistent, politically motivated restrictions much less effective. Moldovan producers are obtaining higher prices for their goods, along with more stable business relationships, which strengthen ties with Europe at a grassroots level.

Turning to the Western Balkans, the region continues to be weighed down by fragile institutions, weak rule of law, endemic corruption, and limited media freedom. In addition, the region faces issues of violent extremism and malign influence, as Russia tries to hinder the region's integration and alignment with the West. Other challenges that have slowed the region's advance towards Euro-Atlantic integration include an unwieldy system of governance in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnia); and entrenched public sector corruption, which is rife throughout the region.

The FY 2019 budget request will support assistance to strengthen democratic institutions, including the judiciary and civil society, and will help the region build on recent momentum toward more effective democratic governance. In just a few days Macedonians will vote in a referendum on a new name for the country, which would clear the way for progress on NATO and EU accession. Over the past year, two Balkan countries, Albania and Kosovo, have held local and parliamentary elections which were broadly accepted as free and fair.

In the energy sector, the President's FY 2019 budget request will facilitate the region's upgrading of its energy infrastructure, diversifying energy sources, and implementing of critical market reforms. These changes will help reduce the Kremlin's ability to interfere in the region and will further open the region to investment opportunities for U.S. businesses.

USAID assistance will support legal and regulatory reform and capacity building to ensure transparent, effective rule of law and enforcement. Such initiatives also promote increased economic integration with Europe and help cement the relationship of Balkan countries with the West, thereby limiting Russia's ability to use economic levers to manipulate them.

Next, it is worth noting the hopeful case of Armenia. This spring the country experienced an important democratic breakthrough, as its citizens peacefully gathered to demand political change and an end to corruption. With a new government and Prime Minister that appear committed to reforms and to tackling corruption, we see a range of new opportunities to support this transition – and positive change for the people of Armenia.

An important initiative at USAID has been the new Countering Kremlin Influence Development Framework.

Malign Kremlin interference manifests itself in the political, economic, energy, social and information spheres of countries throughout the Europe and Eurasia region. The Kremlin is waging a campaign to undermine core Euro-Atlantic institutions and to weaken support for democratic and free-market systems among its neighbors. These actions create considerable new challenges to the reform efforts of countries in the region and towards greater integration with the West.

Countering malign Kremlin influence in Europe and Eurasia is a U.S. strategic priority. Countering the Kremlin's malign influence in Europe and Eurasia is critical to the "four pillars" of our national security, as such efforts help to protect the homeland, promote American prosperity, preserve peace through strength and advance American influence.

Our Countering Kremlin Influence Development Framework (CKI Framework) addresses key areas of vulnerability in countries in the region, including in democratic institutions and the rule of law, the information space, energy security, and the economic sphere. Corruption, as an important cross-cutting challenge, is addressed in each sector. This CKI Framework is USAID's response to programming associated with the Countering Russian Influence Fund in the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act.

USAID further believes that partner countries that build strong democracies and market-oriented economics, will be more resilient to Kremlin attempts to exploit weaknesses in their political and economic institutions.

Importantly, whether the focus is on Countering Kremlin Influence goals or other objectives, USAID is committed to taking every prudent step to extend the reach and effectiveness of taxpayer resources. This includes strengthening domestic resource mobilization programs so the partners can more effectively finance their own development future. It includes taking steps to ensure that our program and procedures are more private enterprise friendly, so that we can better leverage our resources, bring new ideas and partners to our work, and increase opportunities for American businesses.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to conclude by noting that although the countries of this region boast many development achievements and successes, much remains to be done. Many of those successes, while impressive, are partial and subject to reversal. The FY 2019 budget will allow USAID assistance in Europe and Eurasia to continue efforts to strengthen and grow the private sector; diversify energy resources in order to increase energy security; and build and reinforce democratic institutions grounded in the rule of law. With deliberate, sophisticated, and intensified Kremlin efforts undermining progress, the development path forward in the region has become more complex -- and more challenging. As a result, the vigilance and readiness of USAID to continue assistance is more important than ever. In contrast, a democratic and prosperous Europe and Eurasia region, integrated into the global community, will enhance America's security, benefit the U.S. economy, and stabilize this crucially important region.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much.

And, now, I am going to see if I can pronounce your name now. Let's see, Ann Marie Yastishock. That's as good as I am going to—[laughter].

All right. Well, thank you very much. I mispronounce her name every time she comes. She always has the best testimony. So it's good.

You may proceed.

STATEMENT OF MS. ANN MARIE YASTISHOCK, DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, BUREAU FOR ASIA, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ms. YASTISHOCK. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Meeks, and Representative Sherman, thank you for inviting me to testify on USAID's role in advancing U.S. foreign policy priorities in Central Asia. I ask that my testimony also be included for the record.

USAID's fiscal year 2019 request of \$48.3 million supports our bilateral efforts in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as for the Central Asia regional programs covering all five countries.

With fiscal year 2019 funds, USAID will strengthen democratic institutions, focusing on improving governance, amplifying the voice of civil society, advancing rule of law, and supporting the independence of media.

In economic governance, USAID will create a legal enabling environment for competitiveness, enhance trade facilitation, and promote responsible infrastructure development including transforming the energy sector while encouraging U.S. private sector investment.

Enhanced energy and trade within Central Asia promotes greater integration and reduces these countries' dependence on Russia and China.

USAID's programs are a critical component of the administration's South Asia strategy by advancing regional stability, promoting partnerships between South and Central Asia, particularly Afghanistan, and supporting the sovereignty and regional connectivity of the Central Asian countries.

Accordingly, we will prioritize building local capacity in Central Asia, engaging the private sector in the growth process, and helping partner countries mobilize domestic and international resources to fund their own development agendas, which will move them forward on their journey to self-reliance.

In Uzbekistan, USAID is leveraging strategic openings, working to strengthen civil society and rule of law, expand trade and energy cooperation, and strengthen health outcomes.

For example, by digitizing the case management in civil courts nationwide, USAID has helped the Uzbek courts cut the average length of cases in half.

Earlier this year, USAID and Uzbekistan signed four MOUs to enhance our cooperation in rule of law, trade, energy, and to assist the country accede to the World Trade Organization.

With 2019 resources, USAID will help Uzbekistan open its economy, fight corruption, and improve the business climate for U.S. companies.

U.S. technology and products introduced over the last 2 years have resulted in Uzbek companies purchasing everything from John Deere tractors to 600,000 walnut saplings from California nurseries.

In health, USAID assistance helped reduce tuberculosis incidence in the country by 44 percent from 2001 to 2016, and helped decrease TB mortality by almost 80 percent in the same time period.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, USAID will use 2019 resources to boost private sector competitiveness and build on our successful efforts in health and education.

USAID is also working to strengthen the financial sustainability of local media outlets. In education, we've improved the reading skills of 65 percent of public school primary students and at the government's request have expanded our reading interventions to every public primary school in the country.

In Tajikistan, USAID will use the 2019 resources to continue to foster inclusive development and reduce malnutrition. New technologies introduced by USAID have quadrupled high-value fruit and vegetable production and sourced about 50 crop varieties from California. These efforts have helped reduce stunting from 31 percent to 18 percent over the last 5 years.

In health, the first patients treated with a new U.S. drug are completely cured of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis where once the disease was virtually fatal.

Lastly, USAID will use 2019 resources to engage and bring together the five Central Asian countries including through the U.S.-sponsored C5+1 initiative to promote cooperation in trade, energy, and water as well as to improve conditions for labor migrants, reducing their vulnerability to radicalization.

Our budget request will also enable USAID to help establish a market-based Central Asia regional electricity market.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your support of USAID's programs in Central Asia. Investing in Central Asia's development remains in our national interest.

With our fiscal year 2019 budget request, we are committed to making the most out of every taxpayer dollar to ensure that our partner countries move forward on their journeys to self-reliance and we achieve the objectives of the South Asia strategy.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Yastishock follows:]

Statement of Ann Marie Yastishock
Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Asia
United States Agency for International Development
 Before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs,
 Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats
“Europe and Eurasia: Ensuring Resources Match Objectives”
 September 27, 2018

Chairman Rohrabacher, Ranking Member Meeks, and Members of the Subcommittee: Thank you for inviting me to testify on the vital role of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in advancing U.S. foreign policy priorities in Central Asia. It is an honor to testify before this committee and a pleasure to be here alongside my USAID and State Department colleagues.

USAID’s development and humanitarian assistance is key to achieving prosperity and stability for our Central Asian partner countries, as well as for the United States. The President’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget request for USAID-managed assistance in Central Asia is \$48.3 million. This request supports USAID efforts in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as for Central Asia Regional programs. Our regional energy and trade programming also supports development in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

Central Asia’s Role in the South Asia Strategy

Central Asia is geostrategically important to the United States, and our alliances with those countries serve as a counterweight to China and Russia. The need for political and socio-economic stability is paramount to our partnerships with the Central Asian republics, which are a growing market for U.S. goods. USAID’s programs are critical to achieving the goals of the Administration’s National Security and South Asia strategies: fostering regional stability, deepening our strategic partnership with India, and supporting the sovereignty and regional connectivity of Central Asian countries, which share economic and humanitarian interests in neighboring Afghanistan.

USAID’s programs aim to foster regional stability and deepen our strategic engagement with Central and South Asia. Our programs help stabilize the region, including Afghanistan, through increased trade and energy linkages and closer people-to-people ties. We are helping prevent transboundary conflict that could destabilize the region and its neighbors by working on often volatile cross-border issues such as water management, energy generation, and trade cooperation. We are also supporting India’s and Kazakhstan’s emergence as pillars of stability in the region, including building their capacity to be a donor in their own right.

Strengthening Democratic Governance

Democratic institutions in Central Asia have been significantly tested in recent years. Adversarial foreign influences, including Russia and China, have exploited weaknesses to undermine democratic institutions and thus, the long-term stability of our partner countries. USAID will focus on strengthening democratic institutions in this region and will use FY 2019 resources to promote improved governance, foster evidence-based policy analysis and advocacy;

implement anti-corruption initiatives; support media independence and information integrity; and amplify the voice of civil society.

In Uzbekistan, FY 2019 resources will support the country's democratic opening, including by bolstering the rule of law through our work with civil courts. By digitizing case management in civil courts nationwide, we have helped cut the average length of court cases in half, reducing a backlog and building confidence in the system for citizens and businesses. Based on a request from the Government of Uzbekistan, USAID initiated a new program in August to reform judicial institutions.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, the FY 2019 request will support USAID's work with civil society to strengthen government-citizen engagement, bolster civic activism, promote government accountability, and enhance the legal enabling environment for civil society organizations. At the sub-national level, we have assisted 16 municipalities to mobilize local resources to improve critical public services such as waste management and clean water. USAID is also working to strengthen the financial sustainability of Kyrgyzstani media outlets. Most are not financially viable and their dependence on wealthy backers leads them to broadcast propaganda produced by foreign interests.

Strengthening Economic Governance

Despite Central Asia's growing wealth, its generally weak regulatory environments, constrained fiscal space, lack of infrastructure, and corruption impede partner countries' growth and create opportunities for foreign predatory tactics that often lead to economic and political dependency. These challenges also hinder free and fair competition by American companies, thus discouraging U.S. private sector investment in the region's fast-growing markets. USAID programs will focus on creating an enabling regulatory environment for competitiveness, trade facilitation, and responsible infrastructure development, including the transformation of the energy sector.

FY 2019 resources will enable USAID to play a central role in helping facilitate energy connectivity in Central Asia. In partnership with the State Department and other donors, we are helping to establish a market-based Central Asia Regional Electricity Market (CAREM) that will enhance regional energy security and economic stability. CAREM complements the Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000), which is designed to export excess hydro power from Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic to Afghanistan and Pakistan and generate transit fees and electricity for Afghanistan estimated to be worth \$50 million annually. CAREM will build regional institutions that ensure fair transactions; have effective dispute resolution processes; and promote a level playing field for technical, environmental, and taxation regulations as well as fair pricing and grid access.

We help to improve the enabling environment for U.S. businesses by helping Central Asian countries comply with rules-based trade. At the seventh annual Central Asia Trade Forum in October 2017, we helped facilitate more than \$26 million in letters of intent to conduct future trade. Next month's 2018 Forum in Uzbekistan is expected to draw even greater interest from Central Asian and U.S. firms. USAID also helped strengthen links between Central Asia and Lithuania and Latvia that resulted in over \$61 million in agribusiness and transport agreements.

Increasing economic ties to the Baltic States, and with each other, will enable Central Asian producers reduce their dependence on Russia, the destination for the majority of Central Asia's agricultural exports.

USAID and Uzbekistan signed four MOUs this year to enhance our trade and energy cooperation and support judicial reform -- a major accomplishment in a formerly closed country. With FY 2019 resources, the United States is helping Uzbekistan open its economy, fight corruption, and improve the business climate for U.S. companies. We are working with USTR to assist Uzbekistan accede to the World Trade Organization, and supporting the country's efforts to diversify its agricultural sector away from low-value commodities toward higher value horticulture. In the past two years, we have helped Uzbek companies purchase John Deere tractors and 600,000 saplings from California nurseries. In FY 2017, USAID held the Horticulture Business Forum in Uzbekistan, which brought together businesses from across the region and beyond to increase regional business connectivity. The Forum resulted in 38 letters of intent to conduct trade valued at over \$40 million signed between companies in Central Asia, mostly from Uzbekistan, and companies in Europe and the Middle East.

In Tajikistan, USAID will employ FY 2019 resources to develop the horticultural value chain to spur markets. Cold storage, which slows the deterioration of fruits and vegetables, helps farmers prolong their post-harvest season and sell their crops at higher prices. USAID is helping Tajikistan learn from Uzbekistan's success in cold storage management -- and strengthening relations between formerly hostile neighbors -- while showing how easing trade restrictions between the two countries could greatly benefit both.

More than half of Central Asia's population is under 30 and unemployment is high. As a result, millions have left Central Asia over the past few years in search of work; indeed, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan are two of the most remittance-dependent economies in the world. Five to seven million citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan live and work in Russia. These migrants often face economic hardship, abuse, harassment, and discrimination -- factors that increase vulnerability to extremist recruitment.

USAID will use FY 2019 resources to bring together the five Central Asian states to improve conditions for migrants, including strengthening their resilience and thereby reducing their vulnerability to radicalization to violence. We educate potential migrants and their communities about the risks of radicalization to violence and promote safer migration practices. We are expanding reintegration services and developing employment alternatives that give young people options in their home countries. USAID will continue to adopt new approaches to deter radicalization to violence through a better understanding of violent extremists' online and in-person recruitment practices in Central Asia in order to build the resilience of communities and institutions.

The FY 2019 request will enable USAID to help boost private sector competitiveness in the Kyrgyz Republic in order to reduce reliance on foreign remittances, which account for an amount approximately equal to one-third of the country's GDP. In addition, our economic growth funding has supported significant behavior change in nutrition-sensitive agriculture

activity: breastfeeding rates increased from 29 to 63 percent in just three years and recipients greatly increased the diversity of the foods that they consumed.

The FY 2019 budget request strengthens the Central Asia and U.S. diplomatic and development platform, C5+1, which addresses common challenges faced by the five Central Asian states and underpins efforts to create a more connected region for trade and investment, energy, the environment, and security.

Journey to Self-Reliance

As USAID Administrator Mark Green often says, “We believe that every person, every community, and every country wants to be empowered to lead their own journey to self-reliance. We try to help our friends strengthen policies that experience tells us are necessary for a country to reach self-reliance and, eventually, prosperity.” Across our work, we prioritize building local ownership, engaging private enterprise, and helping partner countries mobilize resources from domestic and international sources to fund their development agenda.

USAID’s FY 2019 budget request supports programs in economic growth and democracy and governance that both propel partner countries along their journey to self-reliance. Countries with regulatory environments that foster transparent and rules-based order and strong democratic institutions tend to attract more legitimate investors and avoid being subjected to the political and economic coercion of predatory forces.

Health

Healthy populations are crucial to achieving household and national economic growth. Investments in effective health systems are critical to averting major health shocks that drain countries’ economies and impede growth. USAID’s FY 2019 budget request will enable us to continue making strides to drive down one of the most infectious diseases -- tuberculosis (TB). Central Asia faces significant TB-related challenges: four of the region’s five countries are among the 30 countries with the highest multi-drug resistant (MDR-TB) burden while the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan are among the 20 countries with the highest burden of extensively drug-resistant (XDR-TB) cases.

The Kyrgyz Republic continues to experience the highest rate of new drug-resistant TB cases worldwide. New treatments introduced by USAID in 2017 halved the treatment time and recently cured the first XDR-TB patients to begin the new regimen. The Kyrgyz government was so impressed with our initial results that it expanded the use of these new treatments to the entire country this year. We also developed a database to improve budget management for TB hospitals, which the Ministry of Health expanded to every hospital in the country. Lastly, we replaced outdated textbooks with the first textbook specifically relevant to TB in the Kyrgyz Republic and in Central Asia that incorporates international best practices.

In Tajikistan, USAID is expanding the use of bedaquiline, the first new FDA-approved TB drug in over 40 years and is partnering with the government to pilot shorter, lower-cost MDR-TB treatments, which take about 10 months, rather than the usual two years. At the end of 2017, the first group of MDR-TB patients who enrolled in this shorter regimen completed their treatment

and has been fully cured of TB. With support from USAID and other partners, the Government plans to expand this shorter-treatment regime nationwide by the end of 2019.

USAID began partnering with the Government of Uzbekistan (GoU) to control TB in 2002 and, according to the GoU, TB incidence has dropped by 44 percent from 2001 to 2016 and TB mortality has decreased by almost 80 percent in the same period. Ensuring that patients are treated with reliable medications is key to stemming the TB epidemic. In 2017, for the first time USAID began working with local manufacturers so that they will be able to produce international-grade TB drugs.

Education and Food Security

As with health, improving education and food security in Central Asia is crucial to boosting household and national wealth and resilience, thereby accelerating countries' self-reliance. FY 2019 resources will be used to improve education in the Kyrgyz Republic and support Tajikistan, as a Global Food Security Strategy target country.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, the FY 2019 request will enable us to continue working to improve education outcomes to prepare the next generation for greater employment opportunities. We have improved the reading skills of 65 percent of public school primary students, and at the request of the government, we have extended our reading interventions to every public primary school in the country. We have just launched a new activity to improve education access and quality to students with disabilities as well as ethnic minority children whose mother tongues are not the Kyrgyz language. We have also translated 10 children's books into Braille -- the first children's books in Braille in the Kyrgyz language.

Tajikistan struggles to create jobs for the 70 percent of its population under the age of 30. With 64 percent of the country's population employed in agriculture, and recognizing that food insecurity affects health and labor productivity, the majority of the FY 2019 budget request for Tajikistan supports our efforts to foster inclusive economic development and reduce malnutrition through market-led agricultural development. We implement agriculture and nutrition programs in Tajikistan's poorest regions along the Afghan border. We introduced new technologies that quadrupled high-value fruit and vegetable production and sourced approximately 50 improved crop varieties from California. These efforts are also improving health and nutrition outcomes: stunting has fallen in the last five years from 31 percent to 18 percent and the proportion of children receiving a minimum acceptable diet has more than doubled.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, Central Asia is a strategically important region for the United States, with tremendous opportunity that is constrained by significant development challenges. If the region is to increase its stability and realize its full potential, USAID must remain engaged in areas that further our strategic interests. With the FY 2019 budget request, USAID will continue making the most of every U.S. taxpayer dollar to ensure that the development decisions our partner countries make today help move them forward on their journeys to self-reliance and achieve the objectives of the South Asia Strategy.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your counsel and questions.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Well, thank you very much. Thank you to all the witnesses for their testimony and I am going to let Mr. Meeks lead off with the questions today.

And Mr. Meeks, you may proceed.

Mr. MEEKS. That means he wants to do something else behind me.

No, I am kidding. [Laughter.]

Thank you for your testimony, and I think that it's tremendously important on what you have indicated.

And so I would ask each and every one of you, you all agree that the work that you do, whether it's USAID, whether it's the State Department, is tremendously important for the people of the United States of America.

Is that correct? Everybody.

And it's been helpful. I mean, we have seen meaningful results as a result of the diplomatic work that you do on the ground on a continuous basis.

In fact, as a number of generals have indicated in the past, it may have even saved lives, in the long run. Would you all concur to that?

Now, my concern is, because I think that in the past when I look at the severe cuts that are going to take place here, you know, at the level that they are, I don't think, unless you can—you tell me otherwise, that either the State Department or USAID, running the programs that you have ran, just was foolishly spending money and not looking at it and trying to evaluate the programs with which you were in charge of, and working very closely with some of our allies in some of the countries in Europe and Eurasia and counteracting other countries who may try—who may not have the same—the same rules and values that we have. Is that also correct?

Yeah? Okay. So then with this proposed budget, if it was to be enacted—I will start—what adjustments would USAID—let's start with that, Mr. Bierman—have to make in order to sustain the current efforts so that we can continue to do what you're doing, with the draconian cuts, you know? That we see 28 percent overall and we see how certain countries in the East are being cut, you know, some—you know, 63 percent. What do you do?

Mr. BIERMAN. Thank you very much, Congressman, and I appreciate the opportunity to answer your question. I also would just state, quickly, that we will remain available to answer questions after this through the QFRs and also to meet with you personally to go over every single one of your questions that we might not have time for today.

Over the last 8 months, I have made a high priority of coming up to Congress and meeting with members and their staffs to answer these very important questions.

But let me just say that I think that the President's request does give us the resources we need to accomplish our goals. I would also suggest to you that we've been very strategic in our efforts and we've been very focused, putting together a strategic framework in terms of countering Kremlin influence, and we are specifically going after those areas that are of most need with both of our host countries and also the region.

Finally, I would also suggest to you that we are working with our European counterparts to be more collaborative and strategic in our work. We are working with the private sector in terms of bringing more resources to the table and we are also working—and I think this is important—with diaspora.

I have made it a personal priority to make sure that I meet with diaspora and I talk to them about how we can bring additional resources to the table to help solve some of the issues that we are facing.

And, finally, I just wanted to let you know that in Europe and Eurasia we are not closing any missions. We are looking at a country office in Albania where we are looking at the relationship as it currently stands.

But there is no plans right now to close any of our missions or country offices and we will be happy to work with Congress to—as we—consult with Congress as we reassess our host countries' path to their self-reliance.

Mr. MEEKS. So let me just ask this then, because what I am trying to make sure that maybe then we don't need to make the errors of the past. Are you saying to me that this money that you had previously you were over funded in the past?

Mr. BIERMAN. I would say that we are utilizing the resources from Congress in a very strategic and positive manner.

Mr. MEEKS. Right. So you're just doing what you have to do because that's all the money you're going to get if this budget is enacted. Is that correct?

Mr. BIERMAN. I think we are being much more strategic in our focus and we are also being more effective—

Mr. MEEKS. So then we should have been more strategic in the past. We didn't need to give you—didn't need to give the money. Because I want to make sure we don't do that. If you didn't need the money before and, you know, and we are just going to accept that the budget is—the budget is—will get cut and there's no advocacy, because in the past when I was in these hearings, no matter who the President was, whether it was Obama or Bush, the urge was to fight for as many—as much dollars to create and have the kind of programs that are necessary on the ground which would benefit the interests of the American people.

Now, if I am hearing now that there has been a concrete examination of the funds that was received in the past within the agency—and I know I am putting you on the spot so I am not going to let you—I am not going to—I am not going to do that to you. I am not even going to ask you to answer the question. Okay. I am not going to ask you to answer the question.

But I just want you to know that I appreciate very much the work that USAID has been doing on behalf of the American people and I think that in your statement, you know, you indicated that there has been progress.

But there are several countries that are still under the threat of Russia influence and some of that is increasing. Is that correct? It hasn't decreased. It's still there.

Mr. BIERMAN. No, it is creating a clear choice between authoritarianism and open democracy.

Mr. MEEKS. And Ms. Yastishock, the State Department, it's the same issue—I mean, the same questions. I mean, the work that you do is valuable to the American people and make a difference on the ground to people—to the American citizens.

So they've been getting—because when I look at what our foreign aid is over our overall budget, it's less than 1 percent.

So the American people have been getting a good value out of their dollar investing in our State Department and USAID and the regions that we are talking about now, whether it's Europe or Central Asia. The American people haven't been shortchanged by the money that we've been giving to the State Department, have they?

Ms. YASTISHOCK. I am with USAID so I will defer—

Mr. MEEKS. USAID. Okay. I am sorry.

Ms. YASTISHOCK [continuing]. To my State colleague.

Mr. MEEKS. Who's here from the State Department? Ms. Wynne and Ms. Puma. I am sorry.

Ms. WYNNE. I will answer the question first. Thank you, Ranking Member Meeks.

First, before I answer the question, I want to say thank you to the Members of Congress for the generous support that you have provided both the career members of the service and the department and USAID in supporting the foreign policy objectives for our region.

I guess I would answer your question in the following way. We recognize that as we sit here we understand that the budget resources to support our foreign policy objectives are just one part of the greater whole and that you have a very tough job in balancing the priorities for our foreign policy objectives against domestic policy objectives and the very real deficits that face us.

So the President's request for fiscal year 2019 is a request of fiscal restraint. Within that request—and I think this is what Brock was trying to get at—is that we are trying to be very strategic within this request.

We are trying to be very responsible in making sure that the resources that we have are being put toward our highest priorities and for us, within the State Department and USAID, for Europe and Eurasia, that priority is focussing on those states that are on the front lines of Russian aggression—Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova, where there are Russian boots on the ground—and also more vulnerable areas in the Western Balkans, which are also susceptible to malign influence.

Within that, we are also being strategic about the types of assistance and engagement and interventions that we are using so that we are focussing on those levers and influences that are our biggest challenge.

First and foremost, supporting our partners and allies in strengthening their cyberdefenses, especially as it relates to their election systems; supporting local efforts to counter disinformation, which serves to discredit our democracies and sow division within the West; focussing on the fight against corruption, which really is the door to malign influence from Russia but also increasingly from China; and finally, supporting our European partners as they strengthen their energy security.

Again, with the resources that we have, we want to be strategic.

Mr. MEEKS. One thing that I know—I've gone over my time—but so what will you now not focus on?

Ms. WYNNE. So we are focusing—what we are not focussing on are those areas—

Mr. MEEKS. Right, these—go ahead.

Ms. WYNNE. Thank you. So we'll not be focussing on those areas that don't align with those goals. So, again, prioritizing where the threat is the greatest in those areas where the vulnerabilities are greatest and, finally, working in partnership with our European donors and even with the private sector to make sure that we are leveraging as much of the outside resources as we can to address these threats.

Mr. MEEKS. Right. I will just close with saying that I know that if you're reprioritizing there's something that you have got to leave out and I—from, you know, prior testimony under various administrations, you know, they talk about the work that they did. All of it was substantial. And now you have to make choices and so a lot of things have to be left out.

And when I see where these dollars are going, it's not like the dollars are going into a savings account. The dollars are going into the military. That's where it's going.

And so it just seems to me then we are reshifting completely from the diplomatic side or cutting the diplomatic side into just the military side, causing a imbalance that we once were trying to fix, because from the generals that I've talked to they say we need both, and any—I mean, one general—the favourite quote: The cuts that we take away from diplomacy we got to add it for bullets.

And that's just my point. I yield back.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Well, thank you, Mr. Meeks.

I have a few questions of my own. But let me note that we are spending \$833 billion more this year than we are taking in.

So every cent we spend overseas is being paid for by our grandchildren—

Mr. MEEKS. You passed a tax cut.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. The tax cut—is that probably going to—

Mr. MEEKS. A lot of money there.

Mr. ROHRABACHER [continuing]. May end up with actually more revenue because the level of economic activity here will be increased, as—

Mr. MEEKS. I am sorry.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. It's okay.

Let me just note that that type of deficit spending has to be dealt with in some way and one way will be to increase the productivity of our economy.

The other way will have to be trying to make sure that we have a greater sense of responsibility in every dollar that's being spent, especially outside of our country, especially for, hopefully, the benefit of other countries. That is a mutual benefit to us.

I understand your argument that helping other people is a benefit to us and would create stability, et cetera. But should we actually be financing—well, first of all, let me ask about the crops in Ukraine.

Who was it who mentioned that we have doubled certain crops in Ukraine? Was it you, Mr. Bierman, or—

Ms. YASTISHOCK. I thought it was Tajikistan, doubling the fruit crops.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. All right. Yeah, I—could you go into that detail a little bit for that? What crops were doubled and how did we do that? And—

Ms. YASTISHOCK. Actually, I believe it is in Uzbekistan where we have been working—

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Yes, that's Uzbekistan.

Ms. YASTISHOCK. Uzbekistan. We've been working with the private sector as well as the local farmers on increasing the horticulture.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. How did—how did we do that?

Ms. YASTISHOCK. Through a contract and through a contractor, and then we actually helped with leveraging private sector investment to connect them to California to bring in the walnut saplings.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. So was—did we send—was it an American company we contracted with to go there and help their farmers produce more of their product? Is that what happened?

Ms. YASTISHOCK. We did. We brought in American experts and farmers to be able to increase the yields and the horticulture sector.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Do you know what crops those were?

Ms. YASTISHOCK. They were walnut saplings from the United States.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Walnuts?

Ms. YASTISHOCK. Walnuts.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Okay.

Ms. YASTISHOCK. That were brought in from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. All right. That's interesting. We have—and how much did it cost us to double the walnut production in Uzbekistan?

Ms. YASTISHOCK. That's a number I would have to get back to you on, Mr. Chairman. I am not exactly sure.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I certainly don't expect you to have that off the top of your head. But if you could get back to me that would be very nice.

Ms. YASTISHOCK. Sure.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I guess what we need to know is every time we have an expenditure, whether it's to increase the walnuts in Uzbekistan or whatever it is, we need to now show in the age that we are in exactly how this is going to have an impact—positive impact on the United States because we are borrowing that money from our grandchildren, and that—of course Uzbekistan is a vitally important country.

There's no doubt about it. If—I think one of the most important things that we have to deal with—one of the most vital things is stability of Central Asia in the sense that if Central Asia stays stable from the expansion of radical Islam the whole world will be better off, especially the Western world will be better off.

If, indeed, radical Islam permeates into Central Asia, the instability that that creates would be incredibly damaging to the stability of the entire planet.

So there is an importance there and maybe walnut production in Uzbekistan may be part of that. But we have to make sure that we can argue that case and that we know about that.

Now, what about the money that we are spending in governments that are democratically elected and, like in Hungary, and yet we are spending certain amounts of money for what we call reformist groups that are involved with their democratic process?

Is this something that we should—can still afford to do? I mean, we have already a democratically elected government and we go in and are supporting various people who are pushing for various—what we consider to be fundamental aspects of our society but maybe not necessarily fundamental to their culture.

And can we still afford to do that and why should we do that if they already have a democratically elected government?

Anybody want to answer that?

Ms. Wynne.

Ms. WYNNE. Thank you, Chairman. I will try to answer that as best I can.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Talk a little louder so we can all hear you.

Ms. WYNNE. Sorry. I will try to answer that as best I can.

You know, we share with our NATO allies and EU member states, including Hungary, some enduring principles and shared values, and we expect our allies and partners to uphold them.

Part of what the source of American strength is is that wherever we are throughout the globe we stand for fundamental freedoms and democratic principles.

We'll continue to engage these governments on these issues both privately and publicly when necessary. We'll also look to engage societies in ways that we can to be helpful, to support, those fundamental values and principles.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Well, if they have a democratically elected government, isn't it quite insulting for us to go in and say, here's how we define it and we expect you—I mean, the people have freedom of speech there, whether it's Hungary or these other—some other countries like Poland that have come under attack.

Isn't it somewhat presumptuous of us to go in and then to actually take more of that—spend more of that \$833 billion that we are spending in deficit to go in to try to help them—push them in certain directions, even though they already have a democratically elected government?

Ms. WYNNE. So the second part of my answer, sir—and I appreciate your question—was going to refer to the importance of local context and that really does matter, especially if you look at the space in Europe right now where we are facing increasing competition—strategic competition from Russia and China.

The manner in which we go about upholding our shared values and principles is important. We don't want to ease the space for Russian influence and Chinese influence.

We know that Russian disinformation is purporting narratives that are intended to undermine our democracies. So the way in which we go about engaging these governments and supporting these efforts we want to both be effective. But we also don't want to be seen as inadvertently criticizing—

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Well, maybe the—maybe the people—maybe the people of these countries—for example, Hungary or elsewhere, when they see us getting involved with trying to push various policies and issues with the NGOs, et cetera, in their country, maybe they see it as the same kind of interference that they don't like from Russia.

Ms. WYNNE. We certainly need to be careful as we go about supporting these fundamental—these fundamental values—these fundamental principles.

We need to be careful that our efforts aren't inadvertently exploited or mischaracterized as an attempt to criticize the democratically-elected government of a NATO ally or we are neither upholding our values or achieving our fundamental national security objectives.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. All right.

And, you know—I will take a little extra time, too. So the—

Mr. BIERMAN. And I—if I could just chime in, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Please go right ahead, Mr. Bierman. Yes.

Mr. BIERMAN. I would also say that these countries are asking for our help in terms of building their democracy and transparency. They are actually coming to us and asking for assistance with transparent elections.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. That's true. Yes.

Mr. BIERMAN. And I would also just add that this is a matter of sharing a perspective rather than dictating a policy.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Somewhere between Uzbekistan and Hungary there is a—you know, one is basically a very sophisticated country—Hungary and Poland and those countries—versus Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, which are really developing countries.

So there's a line somewhere there for the point that you made of where it becomes interference and where they're actually asking for help and where they're helping and in terms of values and such, especially disturbing is the fact that we've had so much corruption in various countries that we've helped.

I mean, Ukraine, we've spent \$1 billion in Ukraine, I guess, in the last couple years and everybody acknowledges the level of corruption there is just dramatic.

Mr. BIERMAN. I would just add that we've seen more movement to defeat corruption in the last 4 years than we've seen in the last 20 years. They've just stood up a high level anti-corruption court and USAID is helping them stand up that court.

We've seen a number of programs that help create transparency with our ProZorro program. I visited the East where we actually have created these service centers where people can come in and receive valuable services from their local governments that helps them be more proactive and more responsive.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Well, I will say that at that level I hope that they are having—experiencing less corruption. But from what I've been told personally by various groups from Ukraine that at the highest level corruption is worse than it's ever been and that's—I can't verify that but that's what political groups from that country—whereas we are the committee that oversees our relations with Ukraine—they come to us and they talk to us.

With one last point, let us just note that sometimes when you have certain amount of money you're going to spend and now we have to be much more cautious with it, spending the money doesn't necessarily bring about the right end.

I remember, like, one of the things when I first got here was the Clinton administration's insistence on spending what was the equivalent of \$50 million providing fuel for North Korea, and it had just the opposite impact.

I mean, the North Koreans thought we were fools for doing that and did not make peace more likely. It made it less likely, and this President, with all of his abrasiveness and all of the way that he gets people angry at him, calling the guy "Rocket Man" and things like that, we have made tremendous strides forward at least getting the dialogue going to see if we can improve our relations as compared to what that \$50 million got us, which was a retrenchment of tyranny and threat from North Korea.

So with that said, one last point and then Brad, you can take over. And Brad loves to refute me but that's okay—you can do that.

I think that this administration—I think what's fascinating—I want to go on the record on this, fellas, and that is we have left more career Foreign Services officers in charge of the State Department than any other administration that I've been through in the last 30 years.

So we've actually got the pros like that are with us today. They're all pros, and with that said, that's one thing that you got to take into consideration.

Thank you all very much and, Mr. Sherman.

Mr. SHERMAN. On that last point, I have urged the prior Secretary of State and the current Secretary of State when they have good people who happen to be career, give them the permanent title.

I believe we have at least one acting DAS here and as good as the people are, you can't do a good job until they tell you it's your job, and I remember the former Secretary of State saying well, yeah, we haven't filled all these positions because we've got great people filling them temporarily. Permanent is better.

As to the issue of if a country is democratic we shouldn't criticise them, I think that we deal with both democracy and human rights, minority rights, the rule of law, and we need to—just because a country is elected does not mean it's respecting minority rights.

That being said, I am concerned at the great popularity in the American press of any color revolution anywhere in Eurasia—we are running out of colors—when it's an attempt to displace a democratically-elected government, the U.S. press tends to focus on well, if people—if a majority of the people in the capital city who are English speaking and secular are against the government, then obviously it's undemocratic for that government to continue. And the fact is that many of these countries have people who don't live in the capital city and who don't speak English whose votes ought to be given equal weight.

As to the anti-corruption effort, it's good to see that Ukraine has one. I would point out China has also had a huge anti-corruption effort, which is basically an attempt by President Xi to go after his

enemies, and just because a country is doing a lot in anti-corruption does not mean it's primarily an anti-corruption campaign.

I want to associate myself with the ranking member's statements and arguments that we should be spending more on foreign aid but point out that we should also be pushing Europe to do so as well.

Now, as a percentage of GDP they spend more on foreign aid than we do. But we provide the security that they don't provide, as proven even in Europe where that could not be handled by European military. Kosovo and Bosnia was handled by the U.S. military.

As part of our effort to point out that Europe should be spending more on its international obligations, we deliberately undercut that by understating the portion of our GDP that we spend on the military.

We spend far more than 4 percent of our GDP and then we hide that from the American people by saying don't include our intelligence operations as part of what we spend on national defense and don't include VA benefits as part of what we spend on national defense.

If any private company excluded from its expenses of product created the pensions that they are going to provide or obligated to provide or the pension benefits that they're going to provide their workers and they didn't list that as one of their expenses, their accountants would go to jail.

So we should not be understating what we spend to fool the American people when that undercuts our efforts to get Europe to spend more.

I heard a number of the witnesses talk about trade facilitation and the good of expanding trade. Often, U.S. companies will come to you and say, go spend money on this—it's trade facilitation and it's supply network improvement.

What they're really saying is go spend money so that we can ship jobs overseas and our offshoring will be effective. Is there any regulation at USAID that says that you have to look as to whether a particular project will facilitate offshoring of American jobs?

Mr. BIERMAN. I can't answer that but I am happy to get back to you with it.

Mr. SHERMAN. Okay. So this is a program—let's put it this—it's not a regular—you're the one running the program and you're not of any—you don't, at least knowingly, carry out a policy preventing your program to lead to offshoring of jobs?

Mr. BIERMAN. Oh, absolutely. In fact, I was just going to mention—

Mr. SHERMAN. But, I mean, it's on your checklist. If a project comes in and the effect is to allow shoes that are made in the United States to be efficiently made in some other country you don't fund the program?

Mr. BIERMAN. There is no regulation.

Mr. SHERMAN. There is no regulation. Is it a policy of yours? So it's not a—you do not have a policy against funding shipping American jobs overseas?

If a project is going to lead to shutting down an American factory, you don't have a policy that says that's a bad idea?

Mr. BIERMAN. No. In fact, I would just say that we are actually exploiting opportunities for American businesses overseas through our programs. We are seeing the opposite.

Mr. SHERMAN. Okay. When an American business wants you to help exploit the opportunity to close down an American factory and make more money by producing the product overseas, what do you do?

Mr. BIERMAN. Well, first off, let me just—let me give you a prime example where we are working with a rural company in rural Oklahoma where we've actually seen an increase in working—

Mr. SHERMAN. I know there are going to be times when your projects lead to increased American employment.

I am asking you a specific question. Do your policies and procedures—so when we fund your agency we may very well on occasion be funding a program that makes profits for a great American company by shutting down an American factory and facilitating—and doing trade facilitation that helps ship those jobs overseas?

Mr. BIERMAN. As far as I am concerned, everything that we are doing is actually a benefit of both American—

Mr. SHERMAN. But you don't ever—in looking at a project you don't have on your checklist, does this lead to shutting down an American factory?

Mr. BIERMAN. I can't give you an example where that has been the case.

Mr. SHERMAN. Well, on the one hand—yeah, but you're not—okay.

So you would need legislation—we'd have to tell you through legislation not—you know, to notice whether it leads to shutting down an American factory?

I will ask one of the other witnesses. Are you aware of any State Department policy that says that we are not in favor of trade facilitation projects that increase American corporate profits but decrease American jobs?

Ms. WYNNE. I am not aware of any such stated policy, sir. I think the goal of—

Mr. SHERMAN. Well, shouldn't we have one? I mean, you're asking us to go back—we've got this debate between the chairman and the ranking member—you're asking us to go back to our districts and say spend money on aid and you don't happen to notice whether you're funding something that's going to shut down American jobs?

Mr. BIERMAN. I would say it's just the opposite.

Mr. SHERMAN. But do you have it as part of your—I know that you can point to examples where perchance it worked out well. But do you have a written policy against funding a project that you might not—that would displace American jobs?

Ms. WYNNE. When we fund particular projects or particular sectors, sir, we are not looking at the interests of one particular or specific company.

Our focus is on, typically, improving the environment overseas so that our firms can compete.

Mr. SHERMAN. But are you noticing whether—while hoping that your project might increase jobs a—that a project might displace an American factory? Close it down?

Ms. WYNNE. No. I think what Mr. Bierman is trying to say we are in fact noticing the opposite. Our projects are actually doing the opposite.

Mr. SHERMAN. I know—do you have—let's say you get 10 projects and nine of them increase American jobs and you come here and brag about that.

Would you happen to notice that maybe the tenth project led to shutting down an American factory? Do you have a rule against funding that tenth project—the one that would shut down?

I know—other than coming here and bragging about the nine that increased, do you have a policy against funding the project that would lead to closing an American factory?

Ms. WYNNE. I don't know.

Mr. SHERMAN. Nothing you can point to?

Mr. BIERMAN. Hypothetical, but we've never—

Mr. SHERMAN. Well, you don't look for it. If it's not part of your job to notice whether you're going to shut down an American factory, I don't expect the foreign government to send you a memo at their expense saying, don't fund this project in our country because it moves jobs from America to Uzbekistan.

It's not Uzbekistan's job to protect American jobs, and you won't know what you're doing if you don't look and you don't have it on your written checklist to look.

So I hope that when you come back next year you will say yes, we've got a 17-point or 170 points that we look at when we fund a project and one of them is we are not shutting down an American factory.

So come back next year and show it to me. It may be number 169 on the list. But don't tell me to go back to my district and agree with Mr. Meeks and disagree with Mr. Rohrabacher and try to provide more funds for your agency if you won't include this as one of your 170 top concerns.

Now let me go to things far less controversial, although I have gone on pretty long.

Mr. MEEKS. Yes, you have.

Mr. SHERMAN. I am closing in on the amount done by the chairman. I will sneak in one question if you will let me.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. The answer is yes. But I want to note that the way I handle this as chairman I usually let people finish their train of thought and you go right ahead.

Mr. SHERMAN. Okay.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Just as long as when you're the chairman I am going to get that same type of treatment. [Laughter.]

Mr. SHERMAN. Yes. Yes. Yes. You're right. Usually the chairman gets a little bit more.

Mr. Bierman, we've talked here about saving lives. One of your programs that does save lives is the de-mining effort in Artsakh. What are your views on expanding this critical investment in peace by finalizing the HALO Trust's mine clearance funding?

Mr. BIERMAN. Well, first off, thank you for that question, Congressman.

Let me just say for the record we've spent \$43 million in humanitarian assistance for victims of Nagorno-Karabakh over the last—well, since 1998—over the last 20 years.

We are right now at about 97.6 percent completed the mission of de-mining in that particular area and more than a 125,000 people have benefited from the de-mining.

This has saved lives and prevents injuries and generates local jobs. So we continue to support that.

We will continue to look at humanitarian assistance in that particular region as it—as it arises.

Mr. SHERMAN. In a QFR I am going to be asking you to urge the Department of Treasury to conclude a tax treaty with Armenia that will help achieve your goals and actually make money for the IRS rather than cost money, which everything else does.

And I will yield back.

Mr. BIERMAN. And I would just—one last additional point would be that I have met with the Armenian diaspora and we have made a point of reaching out to them and talking about partnerships and benefiting not only Armenia but the region.

Mr. SHERMAN. Thank you.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. We have exactly 5 minutes before the next vote is called. So as a matter of self-interest as well as courtesy, I am going to have Mr. Meeks say his closing remarks and then I will close the hearing.

Mr. MEEKS. And I will be brief.

I just want to thank the four of you for your service and dedication to our great country and to everybody that works in the State Department and USAID.

I've got to tell you, when I travel on this committee and I go almost any place in the world, first, you know, many times I go and I see our military, our young women and men that's in our United States military, I am so proud of them and what they do and what they stand for and how they do their jobs on an everyday basis. And I've got to tell you I am as equally proud of the women and men in the State Department and at USAID.

I see them working tirelessly on behalf of our country, working together to make sure that we have a better world. They are dedicated to this great country of ours and for a better world, and I want to make sure that they know that they are truly appreciated by members of the United States Congress.

So thank you and thank them for their service.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Good summary, wasn't it. That was terrific.

All right. Well, let's just know that almost every Member of Congress that I know agrees with that assessment.

We may be—come across as being too much having green eyeshades and giving people problems over specifics and trying to make do with the budget that we've got without leaving all of this legacy of debt to our grandchildren.

But we know that you're the—you know, they're the front line and you're the one who are putting out all the work and policy. Dictating policy is a lot harder than carrying it out most of the time. So we do appreciate that.

Let me just note that I think that we do—there are some fundamental differences that separate us and I will have to say that some I don't believe and that we should be in other countries pushing them on policies and philosophies that are, yes, consistent with our values but if it's a democratically-elected government they can

get those values and they can get those decisions from their own people rather than from people who have a culture, like we have in California—totally different culture than what's going on in some of the countries like Uzbekistan or Tajikistan or wherever.

They have a totally different culture than we do, and for us to be pushing—and even in Hungary, even when we push—so we are pushing for people to accept as part of our NGO program to do this—that, I think, is not only a waste of money but it will create antagonism for us.

Helping out to make sure that we help the walnut farmers in Uzbekistan and if we do I think that we can—probably they will be grateful to us for doing that rather than telling us what—rather than saying okay, we will agree to your position on gay marriage, okay, and I am just saying that's the type of thing that we should not be pushing as U.S. policy but respecting their culture in that way.

Otherwise, I think they're going to end up disliking us the same way that people dislike Russia, especially during the Soviet era, when they came in and tried to perpetuate their socialist values on everybody.

So with that said, I am optimistic and I think we are in line for a better world. I think that technology—your jobs are going to be easier now because technology and especially communications technology that we are able now to have an influence in another country and, for example, I am on the Science Committee and there's a company, Virgin Galactic, that's just getting into what you call suborbital space.

Well, that means we will be able to go to Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan in an hour from here. Ten years from now that will be—there will be an airline doing that and Virgin Galactic will be offering that service.

This is going to be a—have a tremendous impact on the world and I hope that it will be a positive influence, and we do owe people mine clearing and I was very happy that that was brought up because we have—in our history we have done things to preserve our own security that we need to detail—we need to focus on.

Mine clearing is one of them. People in Laos, people in Vietnam—they still have kids who are going out and they are being—you know, their legs are blown off or their hands are being blown off.

We need to—to me, that is the most justified of all expenditures of foreign aid because we are rectifying something we created ourselves.

And with that said, just—and just improving their economy with walnuts I don't think is enough. But making sure that we help correct—for example, we need to work with people on banking systems that are transparent.

I mean, the corruption that I noted in Ukraine, that's all over the place. What you have got is a—bankers are now quite often just accomplices to public officials who were looting their own countries and that's not right.

And we can—that's one type of a project that would cost a lot of money for us—a lot of time and expertise to try to help people de-

velop banking systems that will protect their own people from that kind of looting.

Those are the type of projects that I think we need more of and less of the more traditional things that USAID has been doing for the last 50 years. Maybe we are in a new phase, and I think we are, and we are depending on you to get the job done.

And thank you for your guidance as we are trying to make the policies of this new phase.

So with that said, this subcommittee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:34 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats
Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Chairman

September 20, 2018

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN hearing of the Committee on Foreign Affairs to be held by the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats in Room 2200 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov>):

DATE: Thursday, September 27, 2018

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Europe and Eurasia: Ensuring Resources Match Objectives

WITNESSES: The Honorable Brock Bierman
Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Europe and Eurasia
U.S. Agency for International Development

Ms. Janine Wynne
Acting Coordinator
Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia
U.S. Department of State

Ms. Emilia Puma
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Ms. Ann Marie Yastishock
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Asia
U.S. Agency for International Development

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON Europe, Eurasia & Emerging Threats HEARING

Day Thursday Date September 27, 2018 Room Rayburn 2200

Starting Time 2:14 pm Ending Time 3:34 pm

Recesses n/a (to) (to) (to) (to) (to) (to)

Presiding Member(s)

Chairman Dana Rohrabacher

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session ☒

Executive (closed) Session ☐

Televised ☐

Electronically Recorded (taped) ☒

Stenographic Record ☒

TITLE OF HEARING:

Europe and Eurasia: Ensuring Resources Match Objectives

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Rohrabacher, Ranking Member Meeks, Rep. Sherman, and Rep. Kelly.

NON-SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: *(Mark with an * if they are not members of full committee.)*

None

HEARING WITNESSES: Same as meeting notice attached? Yes ☒ No ☐

(If "no", please list below and include title, agency, department, or organization.)

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: *(List any statements submitted for the record.)*

Written Statement by Brock Bierman

Written Statement by Janine Wynne

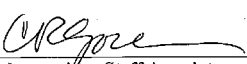
Written Statement by Emilia Puma

Written Statement by Ann Marie Yastishock

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____

or

TIME ADJOURNED 3:34 pm


Subcommittee Staff Associate