

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 315

Expressing the sense of Congress that construction by the Russian Federation of a dam in the Kerch Strait region raises major concerns for the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 29, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania submitted the following concurrent resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that construction by the Russian Federation of a dam in the Kerch Strait region raises major concerns for the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States Government has and continues to recognize its commitment to the independence and territorial integrity of the sovereign nation of Ukraine;

Whereas the United States is a guarantor of Ukraine's security under Memorandum on Security Assurances for Ukraine in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of December 5, 1994;

Whereas Ukraine became one of the original members of the United States-led coalition to fight international ter-

rorism, and has the fourth largest military contingent participating in joint stabilization forces in Iraq;

Whereas Ukraine has taken major steps to stem nuclear proliferation by ratifying the START I Treaty on nuclear disarmament and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, subsequently, on June 1, 1996, turning over the last of its Soviet-era nuclear warheads, and agreeing, in 1998, not to assist Iran with the completion of a nuclear power plant in Bushehr, which was thought to possibly produce weapons of mass destruction;

Whereas in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of May 31, 1997, parties agreed to respect each country's territorial integrity and confirmed borders;

Whereas Article 3 of this Treaty provides that the parties shall build their relations on the principles of mutual respect and sovereign equality, territorial integrity, respect of borders, non-interference in internal affairs, cooperation among states, fulfillment of international obligations and other universally recognized norms of international law;

Whereas in accordance with Article 5 of the Treaty between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on Ukrainian-Russian State Border of January 28, 2003, issues relating to adjacent sea islands are to be settled by agreement of the two parties pursuant to international law; and

Whereas construction by the Russian Federation of a dam in the Kerch Strait region raises major concerns for the territorial integrity of Ukraine: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) preserving independent, sovereign, and
4 democratic Ukraine within its existing internation-
5 ally recognized borders fully corresponds to the na-
6 tional interests of the United States as it has been
7 reiterated since the establishment of diplomatic rela-
8 tions between the United States and Ukraine and
9 such independence and sovereignty should not be
10 challenged in any form;

11 (2) the Government of the Russian Federation
12 should adhere to the provisions of the Treaty of
13 Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between
14 Ukraine and the Russian Federation of May 31,
15 1997, and other major agreements pertaining to res-
16 olution of this matter;

17 (3) the Russian Federation should desist from
18 any actions that may infringe upon the territorial in-
19 tegrity and borders of Ukraine;

20 (4) all differences arising between Ukraine and
21 its neighbors, including the Russian Federation,
22 should be resolved on the principle of sovereign
23 equality and mutual respect without resorting to
24 threat or use of force; and

1 (5) a stable and democratic Ukraine that inte-
2 grates into the Euro-Atlantic structure is an essen-
3 tial element of European security and the United
4 States should support the accession of Ukraine to
5 NATO membership.

○