



April 15, 2022

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown,

My name is Dr. Sean Gilmore and I am a professor at Baldwin Wallace University. Because of the war in Ukraine, many individuals are learning more of the challenges Ukraine is facing. This is a dynamic culture, and the history of Ukraine immigrants needs to be celebrated and understood. For more than ten years I have been teaching a summer course called Diversity in America in which we visit various cultural museums and historical neighborhoods to learn about the vibrant communities in the Cleveland area. This has always included a trip to the Ukrainian Museum-Archives (UMA). Students are so impressed and inspired by the artifacts and historical documents housed in the UMA. Much of the Ukraine culture is being ruthlessly attacked and destroyed. Therefore, the Ukrainian Archives are even more valuable today.

Andrew Fedynsky, Director Emeritus and Resident Scholar often begins our tour by bringing the students into the park across the street and describing the rich history of immigrants that are part of the Tremont neighborhood. We then enter the museum and learn about the incredible life stories of Ukrainian immigrants in Tremont. The Ukrainian immigrant story is a part of the Cleveland story. The museum also has special rotating exhibits such as Ukrainian art, literature, photographs, etc. so while I have been to this museum over 10 times, I always learn something new. Even more importantly, the Ukrainian Archives are very extensive and extremely valuable.

The UMA has amassed such a voluminous collection of artifacts that they are beginning to run out of space. They are requesting Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) so that they may renovate an undeveloped building, the UMA Annex, into a conservation lab and processing facility for donations and storage. Given that they are running out of space for their meaningful artifacts and documents, developing this building is important to continue the UMA's great collection which is a vibrant source of educational material. The UMA provides educational opportunities for people of all ages. It is an educational centerpiece for all in the Cleveland area and a testament to how immigrants have helped shape America. Therefore, it should be supported at both the local and federal levels. Because of the war in Ukraine, we need to preserve the knowledge of this nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Gilmore". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

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