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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

February 25, 2017

Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina
1510 H Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Friends,

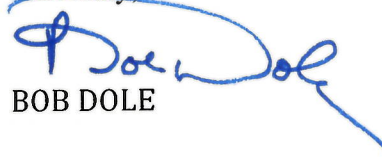
I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina for honoring me with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Lifetime Achievement Award. I am sorry that I could not be there in person but I am glad to have hosted you this past week in my office. I am deeply touched and heartened to see the strength and resilience of Bosnian American community and the valuable work that the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina is doing on behalf of the Bosnian American community.

I have always believed that preserving our values at home while promoting them abroad not only benefits the United States and our interests, but also helps strengthen democratic values and principles overseas. During the genocide and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I worked with my colleagues in the U.S. Congress in advocating for the lifting of the arms embargo and in putting an end to the war. The U.S.-led NATO effort did end up stopping the bloodshed, and in turn, lives were saved and the "Greater Serbia" project was halted.

Today, as you come together to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the U.S. recognition of Bosnia and Herzegovina's independence, know that the United States of America firmly stands by Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty and territorial integrity and against policies that obstruct Bosnia and Herzegovina's path towards long-term peace and progress. Efforts to undermine and weaken Bosnia and Herzegovina's institutions can only lead to instability and such moves are not in the interest of the United States. The recent U.S. sanctioning of Bosnia and Herzegovina's entity Republika Srpska's leader is a testament to U.S.'s support of Bosnia and Herzegovina's institutions and Euro-Atlantic integration. A stable Bosnia and Herzegovina means a stable Balkans.

Thank you once again for this great honor. I wish the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina a Happy Independence Day and once more extend my sincere gratitude to the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina for the award as well as for the work they do in promoting peace and stability within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sincerely,



BOB DOLE