

(June 29, 2006) Defeating Amendment Prohibiting Poland From the Visa Waiver Program

Congressman Lipinski Prevails in Defeating Amendment Prohibiting Inclusion of Poland In Visa Waiver Program

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Today, Congressman Dan Lipinski, co-chair of both the Congressional Caucus on Poland and the Congressional Caucus on Central and Eastern Europe, helped defeat an amendment to the FY 07 Science-State-Justice-Commerce Appropriations bill that would have prohibited the inclusion of additional countries in the visa waiver program, including Poland.

"Security and concerns with protecting our country need to be foremost, but part of security is also strengthening ties with our allies," Lipinski stated during debate on the amendment on the House Floor. "Poland is one of America's closest allies and has continually shown a commitment to the US-led reconstruction of Iraq and the global war on terrorism. It's imperative that we continue to strengthen our already close relationship."

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Recently, Congressman Lipinski joined Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Anna Fotyga and the Polish Ambassador to the United States, Janusz Reiter to discuss the importance of relations between the United States and Poland, and the benefits of adding Poland to the list of 27 designated countries in the Visa Waiver program.

"Including Poland in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program would not only benefit Polish citizens wanting to visit the United States, but would also make it easier for millions of Polish-American citizens to see their families and friends," Lipinski said. "We know that our borders will be no less secure because of these Polish visitors to our country, but we do know that our alliance will be more secure by allowing Poland to participate in this program."