*date*

The Honourable Peter Dutton MP

Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Peter.Dutton.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Dutton,

I write to you as a concerned member of the Australian Lithuanian community about the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Let me begin by thanking the Australian Government for the assistance to date in Ukraine particularly with the provision of BushMaster vehicles.

The Lithuanian calendar of events is approaching two significant anniversaries. The first on 16 February celebrates the Day of Restoration of the State of Lithuania.  The Act of Independence of Lithuania was signed on 16 February 1918, proclaiming restoration of an independent State of Lithuania, governed by democratic principles, with Vilnius as its capital. The second on 11 March celebrates the Day of Restoration of Independence of Lithuania. On 11 March 1990, the Act on the Re-establishment of the Independent State of Lithuania from the Soviet Union was adopted.

Lithuania was the first of the Soviet republics to declare independence, and we gratefully acknowledge the recognition of Lithuanian independence by Australia in August 1991.

While we reflect on the past struggles in Lithuania fighting for our freedom against oppression our thoughts and understanding are with the people of Ukraine.

The retention of Lithuania’s independence could depend on the outcome of the conflict in Ukraine.

Australia is fortunate not to have experienced foreign oppression. We should be aware of how fragile freedom is and that it should not be taken for granted.

I respectfully request your ongoing support for any Australian Government initiatives for supporting the Ukraine war effort to achieve the restoration of freedom for Ukraine.

Yours sincerely

*Name*

*Address*

*Email*