Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2016

H.E. Aleksandar Vučić
Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia
Nemanjina 11
Belgrade, Serbia 11000

Dear Prime Minister Vučić:

As Members of Congress who are deeply committed to a strong relationship between the United States and Serbia, we have followed with great interest the significant steps taken by Serbia to provide restitution for properties expropriated by the Nazis and their collaborators and/or nationalized by the Communists. We write to encourage you to ensure passage of pending legislation to provide restitution for property rendered heirless by the murderous campaign of the Nazis and their collaborators against the Jews of Serbia.

The Terezin Declaration on Holocaust Era Assets and Related Issues calls for the restitution and compensation of heirless property from Holocaust victims. Serbia and the forty-six other countries that endorsed the Terezin Declaration recognized that property so unjustly taken from families who were murdered during the Holocaust should be used to assist those victims who survived, rebuild the devastated Jewish communities, and preserve the memory of those who were killed.

Passage of an heirless property law would express Serbia's commitment to justice and the rule of law, and establish Serbia as a model for other countries in Europe who have not yet provided restitution for heirless property.

For hundreds of years before the Holocaust, Serbia had a thriving Jewish community that made important contributions to Serbian society. The survival of the Serbian Jewish community after being decimated by the Holocaust and suffering under decades of Communist persecution is a testament to the resilience of the community and its historic relationship with the region. Passage of this legislation would provide crucial support to sustain and revitalize Jewish life in Serbia and ensure that a resurgent Serbian Jewish community continues to serve as an integral part of Serbia's diverse society.

The heirless property law would also provide urgently needed assistance to Serbian Holocaust survivors currently living in Serbia and abroad to help them live out their remaining years in dignity. Additionally, the legislation would provide a small measure of justice to a limited number of Serbian Holocaust survivors and their heirs in the United States and elsewhere who will be entitled to reclaim any of their previously unclaimed property restituted to the Jewish communities.

We appreciate Serbia's continuing commitment to meet the standards of the Terezin Declaration and look forward to your continued leadership to ensure the passage of this legislation before the end of the legislative session.

Sincerely,

THEODORE E. DEUTCH
Member of Congress

PETER ROSKAM
Member of Congress

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