

Bosniak Educational and Cultural Community of North America (BECCNA)
Bosniak Educational and Cultural Community of North America
(BECCNA – Revival)

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Mr. Edward P. Joseph
Lecturer & Senior Fellow
Foreign Policy Institute, Merrill Center for Strategic Studies
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Washington, DC

Re: Appreciation for Your America-First Testimony on the Western Balkans

Dear Mr. Joseph,

On behalf of the **Bosniak Educational and Cultural Community of North America (BECCNA)**, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your testimony before the **House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe**, entitled **“Flashpoint: A Path Toward Stability in the Western Balkans.”** BECCNA represents approximately **300,000 Bosniaks living in the United States**, the overwhelming majority of whom are American citizens or lawful permanent residents who place the **interests of the United States first**. We follow congressional deliberations on the Western Balkans closely because the region’s stability is inseparable from **U.S. national security, NATO credibility, and resistance to Russian and Chinese malign influence**.

We commend your testimony for its **honest, historically grounded, and America-first analytical framework**. Drawing on decades of direct service in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and across the region, you clearly identified the **true center of gravity of instability** in the Western Balkans: Serbia’s unresolved strategic orientation, its partnership with Moscow and Beijing, and the enabling role these relationships play in regional destabilization. Your testimony appropriately emphasized that sustainable stability does not require ethnic partition or constitutional dismantling, but rather **consistent U.S. engagement, enforcement of international agreements, and alignment with Euro-Atlantic institutions**.

Your analysis stands in sharp contrast to the testimony of **Mr. Max Primorac**, which we view as advancing not an America-first policy framework, but rather the agenda

of Croatian nationalist maximalists. Mr. Primorac's testimony echoes a historical continuity of failed efforts to divide Bosnia and Herzegovina along ethnic lines—most notably the **Cvetković–Maček Agreement of 1939** and the **Tuđman–Milošević understanding during the 1990s war**. Both of these agreements sought to partition Bosnia without the consent of its people; both failed to divide the country; and both resulted instead in **mass death, destruction, and long-term regional trauma**.

By recycling this discredited logic—reframed today through calls for ethnic territorialization, weakening of international enforcement mechanisms, and the delegitimization of Bosnia and Herzegovina's constitutional order—Mr. Primorac's approach risks repeating historical mistakes that the United States has worked for decades to correct. Such a framework does not advance American interests; it undermines them by legitimizing ethno-nationalist obstruction and indirectly aligning with contemporary secessionist strategies supported by **Russia and its regional partners**.

We are therefore grateful for your testimony, which demonstrates that a truly **America-first policy** in the Western Balkans means defending sovereignty, rejecting partitionist projects with a proven record of catastrophe, and confronting malign foreign influence directly—rather than obscuring it behind narratives of internal blame. Thank you for your principled service, your intellectual honesty, and your continued engagement in advancing policies that strengthen U.S. leadership and long-term stability in Southeast Europe. We hope your analysis will continue to inform Members of Congress and policymakers as they consider the future of U.S. engagement in the region.

Respectfully,

Mirsad Mujadzic
President
Bosniak Educational and Cultural Community of North America (BECCNA)