



Українсько Американський Громадський Центр
Ukrainian American Community Center

301 Main Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 379-1956



www.uaccmn.org info@uaccmn.org www.facebook.com/uaccmn

A 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization – Federal EIN: 41-1408539

June 26, 2025

To Members of the Minnesota State Legislature;

On behalf of the Ukrainian American Community Center in Minneapolis and the broader Ukrainian American community across Minnesota, I write to express our full support for the proposed establishment of a state Council on Central and Eastern European Affairs.

Minnesota has long been enriched by the contributions of Central and Eastern European communities, including the vibrant and enduring Ukrainian American population, which now numbers approximately 25,000 residents across the state. Our community has played a vital role in shaping the cultural, civic, and economic fabric of Minnesota for generations. From preserving heritage and faith traditions to contributing to public life and professional excellence, Ukrainian Minnesotans exemplify the strength and values of the state's ethnic diversity.

The Ukrainian American Community Center has proudly served as a cornerstone of cultural life for decades and more recently as a critical hub for humanitarian response. Since the onset of the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, our center has worked closely with partners across Minnesota to support the urgent resettlement and integration of Ukrainian refugees. We are especially grateful for the strong support of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, whose Refugee Resettlement Program has directly supported the establishment of a dedicated refugee assistance program at our center. This partnership has provided over two thousand newly arrived families with hope, dignity, and a safe start in their new home.

We specially wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the State Legislature for its bipartisan leadership in passing 2022 legislation directing the Minnesota State Board of Investment to divest public pension funds from Russian and Belarusian assets. This principled and courageous act demonstrated Minnesota's solidarity with Ukraine and its commitment to democratic values and human rights.

The creation of an Ethnic Council on Central and Eastern European Affairs would be a timely and meaningful step toward recognizing and supporting the unique needs, experiences, and contributions of our region's communities. Such a council would foster representation, policy inclusion, and collaborative problem-solving across sectors — ensuring that voices from this diverse and historically significant region continue to be heard and respected in Minnesota's civic landscape.

Please support this important initiative and stand with our communities in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

Dima Blyshchak

Dima Blyschak

President

Dima.Blyshchak@uaccmn.org

612-379-1956