

United States Senate

June 13, 2011

Chicago Sister Cities International
Moscow Committee
78 East Washington Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Friends:

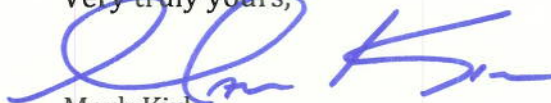
It gives me great pleasure to offer my congratulations to the many people participating in Chicago's First Russia Day celebration.

Since 1997, Chicago and Moscow have celebrated their close relationship as Sister Cities. With over 300,000 Russian-speaking residents in the Chicago metropolitan area, Russia's economic and cultural impact remains truly profound here in Illinois. It is my sincere hope that we are able to build upon such multicultural efforts in the future.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Sergey Kislyak, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States, and thank Chicago Sister Cities International, the Master of Ceremonies Aleksandra Efimova, and all those involved in organizing tonight's event. All who contribute to the success of Chicago's first Russian Day celebration can certainly take pride in all that has been accomplished and look forward to an even brighter and more promising future.

Again, my sincere congratulations!

Very truly yours,



Mark Kirk
United States Senator