

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 14, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

As you consider 302(b) allocations among Appropriations Subcommittees, we urge you to allocate for the International Affairs Budget no less than \$58.8 billion, the amount requested by the Obama administration and in keeping with bipartisan calls from our nation's foreign policy and military leaders to increase funding for development and diplomacy programs.

The International Affairs Budget represents less than 1.5% of the total federal budget, and yet it funds America's development and diplomacy tools – two of the three pillars of U.S. national security. The majority of the proposed \$6.1 billion increase for the International Affairs Budget in FY 2011 is devoted to the Frontline States of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq. In fact, accounting for FY 2010 supplemental funding for Haiti, the FY 2011 request level actually is flat.

Such funding is not only critical to safeguarding our national security and reducing the heavy toll on American men and women in uniform, but it is also instrumental in helping to improve lives through global health, democracy, agriculture, and education programs.

National security and foreign policy experts agree that a strong International Affairs Budget is an essential component of national security. As Secretary Clinton has stated: "Our diplomatic and development tools enhance American leadership, strengthen our alliances, and build new partnerships to confront pressing global challenges. Full funding in FY 11 will allow us to continue making tangible progress in securing the hard fought gains achieved in Iraq, and to continue supporting and deploying hundreds of civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan to help stabilize dangerous but improving situations."

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates says it clearly: "I strongly believe a robust civilian foreign affairs capability, coupled with a strong defense capability, is essential to preserving U.S. national security interests around the world."

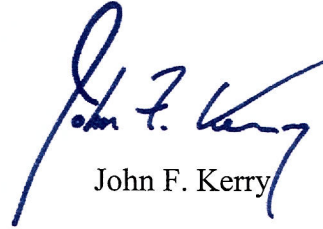
Eight former Secretaries of State concurred in a joint letter in April: "increasing the investment in our civilian international capabilities will keep America safer by, among other things, addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism, supporting key allies, and demonstrating America's proud tradition of global leadership."

We urge you consider these priorities and the Senate's strong support for them, and allocate no less than \$58.8 billion for the 302(b) allocation for the FY11 International Affairs Budget. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



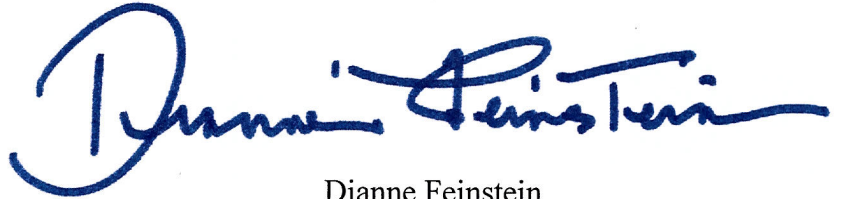
Richard G. Lugar



John F. Kerry



Richard J. Durbin



Dianne Feinstein



Christopher S. Bond