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COMMITTEES:

FOREIGN RELATIONS, RANKING MEMBER
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1401

April 11, 2007

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman and Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington DC

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

During the appropriations process for FY 2008, the Senate will rely on both of you for strong leadership as we seek the right balance in our country's investments in security, both at home and abroad.

In our view, it is critical that function 150 -- the foreign affairs accounts -- be fully funded at the level requested by the President. His effort to boost the civilian side of our national security stance is well-founded. In recognition of this, on March 23, the Senate approved by unanimous consent an amendment to the Budget Resolution that fully restored a \$2.2 billion cut made to the 150 account. We hope that your decisions in the 302(b) allocation process will reflect and endorse Senate support for the President's full request for foreign affairs funding.

In testimony before the Committee on Armed Services on February 6, Secretary of Defense Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Pace talked about the urgent need for civilian expertise in the Iraq stabilization effort. General Pace also called for more civilian resources for the broader worldwide effort, people who can build judicial and rule of law systems, provide engineering expertise, and bring clean water and electricity to people "before a country devolves into a state where the terrorists can find a home." Lack of resources and capability at the State Department and USAID is affecting not just diplomatic operations but also military operations and strategic objectives in the campaign against al-Qaeda and other major terrorist organizations.

We need a full range of tools to prevail in this campaign. In comparing the foreign affairs budget with the defense budget, the relative inexpensiveness of diplomacy and foreign assistance is immediately apparent. When they are successful, these non-military tools of foreign policy save national treasure. Even more important, they can save American lives.

The consequences of underfunding this budget are increasingly apparent. We cannot afford to have key diplomatic posts unfilled overseas when we depend on strong bilateral relationships to help us catch terrorists overseas before they can come to our shores, as well as

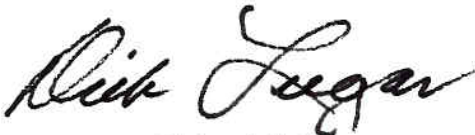
to secure dangerous weapons wherever they are found. We cannot have a stripped down USAID that does not have the personnel and programs to address failed and failing states where terrorists may find harbor. Public diplomacy and broadcasting efforts need to be at peak strength to reach audiences around the world where the intent to commit violent acts needs to be rooted out neighborhood by neighborhood by those who live there. We also need to recommit ourselves to the kind of long-term economic growth and development that can counter the anger and alienation that terrorists rely on to recruit new followers.

We cannot continue to ask the military to perform functions that, by default, fall to soldiers because we cannot muster the money for the civilian side of our national security budget. It is important that our appropriations process reflect our new understanding of the challenges that we face and provide the tools that we need to address them.

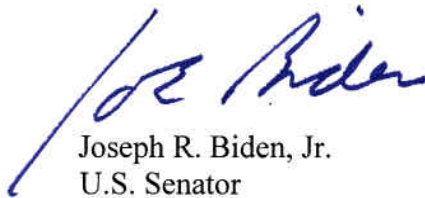
We think the foreign affairs budget should be seen as the civilian counterpart to our military budget. In the war on global extremists, the President is asking for the diplomatic clout, the strong international information programs, and the targeted foreign assistance that are necessary for America to prevail in the long-term.

We appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process.

Sincerely yours,



Richard G. Lugar
U.S. Senator



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
U.S. Senator



John Warner
U.S. Senator