

## BUILDING A BETTER, SAFER WORLD

Dear Member *of* Congress:

As veterans of America's armed forces, we are proud to have served our country and know first-hand that our strong military is essential to keep America safe. But we also know that the military alone cannot defeat today's global threats. As Secretary of Defense Robert S. Gates has said, "we cannot capture or kill our way to victory."

That's why we are urging you, our elected officials, to support a smart power approach to our national security, one that invests in non-military tools of development and diplomacy, alongside a strong defense.

- **Today's most pressing threats** come from non-traditional enemies, like weak and fragile states, climate change, global pandemics, and extreme poverty.
- **To achieve U.S. national security objectives** we must utilize military *and* civilian tools, such as diplomacy, food aid, health, education, and economic development.
- **U.S. civilian institutions are under-resourced and under-staffed**, funded by only 1.4% of the entire federal budget.
- **This is not a partisan issue**, and every living Secretary of State recently signed a letter to Congress affirming the importance of these investments for U.S. national security.
- **Military leaders have joined the call** for greater investments in civilian institutions, and 51 retired general and flag officers signed a letter to Congress supporting the International Affairs Budget.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen recently urged Congressional leaders to reconsider cuts to the International Affairs Budget, handwriting a note, "The more significant the cuts, the longer military operations will take, and the more and more lives are at risk!"

**We urge you to support our critical investments in development and diplomacy and to fully fund the President's International Affairs Budget for fiscal year 2011.**

Signed,  
Veterans *for* Smart Power

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