

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Judd Gregg
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
U.S. Senate

Dear Chairman Conrad and Ranking Member Gregg:

As the Budget Committee prepares its Fiscal Year 2009 (FY2009) budget resolution, we are writing to express strong bipartisan support for the Administration's request of \$39.5 billion in funding for the FY2009 International Affairs Budget and urge the Committee to support the President's request. The International Affairs Budget invests in the strategic tools that are essential to protecting our national security, building economic prosperity, and demonstrating our moral values.

The global realities of the 21st century require the United States to utilize a full range of non-military tools to ensure our nation's security. The United States international affairs budget bolsters our national security through programs that partner with foreign countries to track down terrorists and illicit arms, improve the political and economic lives of others, and help stabilize fragile states.

National security and foreign policy experts support an increase in the International Affairs Budget as a key component of our national security. The 2006 National Security Strategy reaffirmed that "Development reinforces diplomacy and defense, reducing long-term threats to our national security by helping to build stable, prosperous, and peaceful societies." The Pentagon's 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review cited the lack of U.S. civilian international capacity as hindering the Pentagon's core mission to defend the United States. Furthermore, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission called for an increased investment in the full range of diplomatic, development and humanitarian tools to deliver long-term success for U.S. foreign policy.

As Defense Secretary Gates recently said, "One of the most important lessons of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is that military success is not sufficient to win: economic development, institution-building and the rule of law, promoting internal reconciliation, good governance, providing basic services to the people, training and equipping indigenous military and police forces, strategic communication, and more – these, along with security, are essential ingredients for long-term success." We agree, and that is why we strongly support the total amount proposed in the President's International Affairs Budget request.

The United States has a proud history of bringing hope to millions of people who live under oppressive poverty, face starvation, battle HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and suffer the consequences of conflict, dictatorship, and insecurity. Continued investments in

diplomatic, economic, democratic, and development programs are critical to saving lives, ensuring U.S. capacity to engage the world, and building global stability.

Finally, our export promotion agencies and overseas missions open new markets for U.S. businesses and advocate for U.S. commercial interests overseas. In 2007, U.S. exports of goods and services increased by over 12 percent to \$1.6 trillion, creating economic opportunities for millions of Americans. Moreover, these successful programs also help developing countries to fully participate in the world economy.

The International Affairs Budget strengthens U.S. civilian capabilities and energizes our outreach to the world through vigorous public diplomacy, educational and cultural exchanges, and capable, secure embassies and diplomats who directly represent U.S. interests and values. Despite modest increases, the International Affairs Budget remains dangerously underfunded hindering the ability of our civilian agencies to adequately participate in meeting our foreign policy goals.

In December, 61 Senators wrote to President Bush urging him to provide the necessary funding for the International Affairs Budget, and the President appropriately responded with \$39.5 billion. As you consider the FY2009 Budget, we strongly urge that you ensure the President's request is approved in order for the United States to pursue these important National Security and diplomatic efforts.

Sincerely,



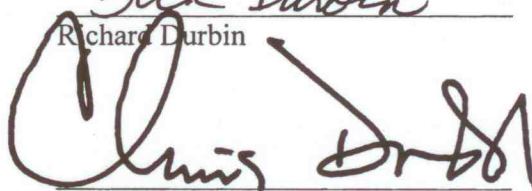
Gordon Smith



Richard Durbin



John Sununu



Chris Dodd



Norm Coleman



Dianne Feinstein



Richard Lugar



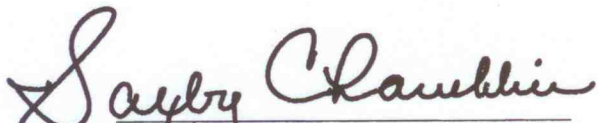
Robert Menendez

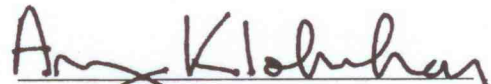


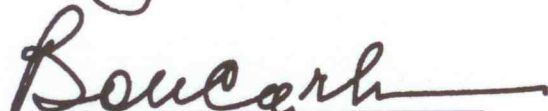
Elizabeth Dole



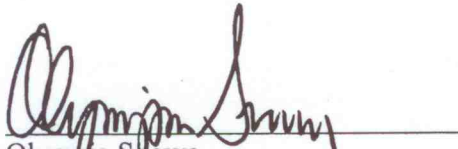
Jack Reed

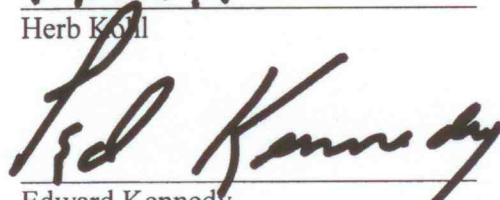

Saxby Chambliss


Amy Klobuchar



Bob Corker


Herb Kohl


Olympia Snowe


Edward Kennedy


George J. Voinovich


John Kerry

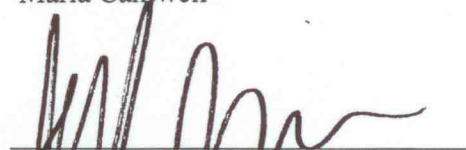

Arlen Specter

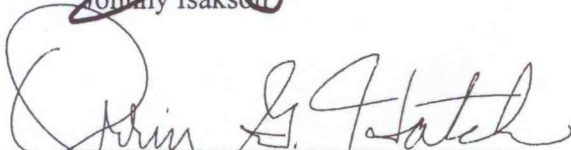

Joseph Lieberman



Richard Burr


Maria Cantwell


Johnny Isakson


Jeff Bingaman


Orrin Hatch


Patrick Leahy


Mel Martinez


Russell Feingold

Pat Roberts

Pat Roberts

Carl Levin

Carl Levin

John Warner

John Warner

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton