April 29, 2013

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers:

As co-chairs of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition’s National Security Advisory Council, a group of more than 115 retired three- and four-star generals and admirals, we urge you to support a strong 302(b) allocation for FY14 State-Foreign Operations.

While we recognize the very restrained budget environment, development and diplomacy programs – only 1% of the federal budget – have already been cut 19% in the last three years. Further reductions in the coming fiscal year would diminish America’s influence at a time of increasing global threats and competitors.

Our nation’s military strength is not sufficient on its own to defend America’s security, protect our most vital national interests, sustain and bolster economic growth and, in particular, address the deep-rooted causes of violence and instability around the world. To deal with these challenges, the U.S. must balance strategically all three aspects of national power and international influence—defense, diplomacy, and development. Yet, too often, the resources for our civilian instruments of diplomacy and international development have not been sufficiently funded and staffed.

As career uniformed leaders, we have seen first-hand that U.S. foreign assistance is a critical component, along with a robust military, of America’s national security strategy. And we know that these programs help achieve U.S. foreign policy goals at a far lower cost (in lives and dollars) than the military. That is why we urge you to support a strong and effective International Affairs Budget in the 302(b) allocations.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Admiral James M. Loy, USCG (Ret.)
Co-Chair, National Security Advisory Council

General Michael W. Hagee, USMC (Ret.)
Co-Chair, National Security Advisory Council

A full list of the National Security Advisory Council is attached.
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