



April 13, 2011

Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 2015

Dear Representative:

The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC), a broad-based, influential network of more than 400 businesses and NGOs; national security and foreign policy experts; and business, faith-based, academic and community leaders in all 50 states strongly urges you to **oppose the deep and disproportionate cuts to the International Affairs Budget in the Budget Committee's FY12 budget resolution.**

We recognize that the very constrained fiscal situation facing our nation requires all programs to tighten their belts and that some budget cuts are unavoidable. However, the magnitude and severity of these cuts to International Affairs programs – nearly 30% below FY10 levels -- will put our national security at risk and diminish U.S. global engagement and competitiveness. Now is not the time to retreat in support of programs that protect America's national security and create conditions for growth and prosperity at home.

Contrary to popular belief, all of our international affairs programs added together only make up about 1% of federal spending, yet they provide a tremendous return on investment to the American taxpayer and yield so many benefits in our national interest. These programs are at work in the most dangerous corners of the world, stabilizing fragile states, combating terrorism and deterring threats before they reach America's shores. They also are building new business markets for American exports – a key driver of economic growth – and providing vital relief to victims of natural disasters, such as the recent earthquake in Haiti.

Military leaders such as Secretary Gates, Admiral Mullen, and General Petraeus have been adamant that insufficient funds for State and USAID will put our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan at risk. The cuts to the International Affairs Budget are particularly stark and disproportionate compared to other security-related accounts (Defense, Veterans, and Homeland Security), which remain largely untouched in the FY12 budget resolution.

The nearly 30% cut to international affairs programs in the Budget Committee's FY12 budget resolution ignores the calls of our nation's top military, business, and development leaders to support a strong and effective FY12 International Affairs Budget. On behalf of the millions of Americans our business and non-profit members represent, **we urge you to oppose the deep and disproportionate cuts to the International Affairs Budget in the Budget Committee's FY12 budget resolution.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Lane".

Bill Lane
USGLC Co-President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Rupp".

George Rupp
USGLC Co-President