



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2010

Honorable John M. Spratt Jr.
Chairman
House Committee on the Budget
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Paul Ryan
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Budget
B71 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt and Ranking Member Ryan:

In the years following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Secretary Gates and scores of military leaders have called for increases in the International Affairs Budget. If fully supported and implemented, these requests will provide critical resources to our civilian agencies, further bolstering efforts to tackle the root causes of conflict and extremism in addition to strengthening ties with America's allies. The President's FY 2011 budget request heeds these calls by proposing to increase International Affairs funding, particularly for the Frontline states of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq. As a group of moderate Democrats, we support the President's request and urge your support as well.

The International Affairs Budget funds America's diplomacy and development tools – two of the three pillars of U.S. national security. Illustrating an emphasis on these three pillars, the 9/11 Commission, the Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group, the Quadrennial Defense Review, and numerous other reports have called for bolstered investments and resources in defense, diplomacy, and development programs.

Like the Bush Administration, the Obama Administration has designated the International Affairs Budget as part of the national security agencies budget, which includes the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs. The FY 2011 International Affairs Budget request represents only 6.7% of this national security funding.

Of the proposed \$6.1 billion increase for the International Affairs Budget in FY 2011, \$3.6 billion or 59% of this increase is devoted to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq. In total, combining the pending FY 2010 supplemental and the FY 2011 proposal, 76% of the Administration's request for the International Affairs Budget is devoted to these three critical Frontline states. When you factor in the pending FY 2010 supplemental funding for true apples-to-apples comparison, the actual increase in International Affairs spending from FY 2010 to FY 2011 is only 2.8%.

Unlike previous years, the FY 2011 International Affairs Budget focuses on the widely-shared goal of rebalancing the roles between military and civilian agencies. The FY 2011 request is an important step to accomplish this objective by reassigning the following items from the Department of Defense to the State Department: the Complex Crisis Fund, Iraq Policing, and the Pakistan Counterinsurgency Fund. These three programs alone account for more than \$2 billion in the FY 2011 request.

The International Affairs Budget, representing less than 1.5% of the total federal budget, provides critical funding to thwart threats before they reach America's shores. Noting the need to increase U.S. diplomatic and development resources, this budget request has been applauded by leading national security leaders such as former Secretary Powell and former Secretary Ridge. In addition, retired General Michael W. Hagee, former Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, and retired Admiral James M. Loy, former Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, along with forty-six other military leaders, have written a letter in support of the President's FY 2011 International Affairs Budget request. Their letter of support is enclosed.

For these reasons, we request your support for the President's International Affairs Budget and encourage your opposition to any efforts aimed at cutting these vital national security investments.


Sincerely,



John Tanner
Member of Congress



Mike Ross
Member of Congress



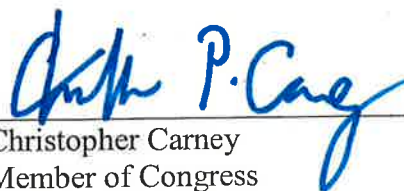
Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



Dan Boren
Member of Congress



Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress



Christopher Carney
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Mike Michaud
Member of Congress



Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress



John Salazar
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Heath Shuler
Member of Congress

cc: Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
Honorable David Obey, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations
Honorable Howard Berman, Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Enclosure