

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 8, 2010

The Honorable John M. Spratt  
House Committee on the Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6065

Dear Chairman Spratt:

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we are writing to express our support for providing at least \$58.5 billion to meet President Obama's request for State Department Operations and International Affairs programs for Fiscal Year 2011. As the Committee prepares the House budget resolution for FY2011, we ask that you protect the increases in the President's budget request for this account, which represent a 2.8% increase when the President's \$4.5 billion supplemental request for FY 2010 is added to the Enacted Appropriations for the same year.

The President has proposed an increase in the International Affairs account and explained in his State of the Union address that *"America takes these actions because our destiny is connected to those beyond our shores. But we also do it because it is right."* We fully endorse the moral and policy rationales behind this statement as we have seen that the combination of poverty, disease and religious and political extremism can be a dangerous one that impacts not only the regions where they coexist, but the entire world. The International Affairs budget is critical to our national security because it invests in the strategic non-military tools that counter these threats by 1) saving lives through global health, food security and environmental sustainability and other such programs, and 2) promoting peace and stability through economic development, education and democracy programs.

The President's policy is one of U.S leadership in *"engagement that advances the common security and prosperity of all people."* Our objective of winning and keeping the support of the general populations of the frontline states, where many of our brave men and women are serving to protect us, will require us to have made sufficient investments in stabilizing those societies by ensuring that certain basic needs are met, without which peace will not be possible. These include basic healthcare, food security and strong physical and democratic infrastructure. In addition, we must not forget other regions of

the world where the lives and well-being of millions more are threatened by similar dangers, including environmental degradation through climate change, HIV/AIDS and other preventable diseases, food insecurity, lack of education, poor governance and under-development.

We look forward to working with you on the important task of setting a framework of spending that is consistent with our goal of fiscal responsibility and economic recovery, and which accommodates the President's request for at least \$58.5 billion for the International Affairs Account.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Payne

Barbara Lee

Emanuel Brown

Al Green

Frank Johnson

Alan M. Chertoff

Chris Smith

Charles Brandt

Eliza E. Cummings

Gregg H. Meeks

Bob Menendez

Sunny D. Davis

Sharon E. Watson

Richard J. Durbin

Donna F. Edwards

Yvette D. Clarke

Ernest Jones

Corrie Brown Marcia S. Judge

Harold Bishop

John Bell

John Buehler  
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Alvin Waters

Bob Gray

John Lewis

James E. Lyda

Wm Lucy Clay

Eddie Bernice Johnson

John Long  
E. Long

Kitty Wong

Shirley Jackson

Amelia T. Phelps

Charles H. King

PHOTO (VA)

*Paul Ryan*<sup>13</sup>  
*Edward H. Royce*

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cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader