

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-elect
Presidential Transition Team
Washington, DC 20270

Dear Mr. President-elect:

As you prepare your Administration's Fiscal Year 2010 federal budget, we urge your support for a robust International Affairs Budget – one that reinforces the continued bipartisan commitment of Congress and your Administration to invest in the strategic tools that are essential to ensuring our national security, building economic prosperity and demonstrating our moral values. Given the financial crisis and uncertainty across the global economy, America must continue to invest in programs that create conditions for growth and prosperity at home and abroad while ensuring our national security.

We live in an interconnected world where infectious diseases, failed states, economic despair and terrorism have no borders. The global realities of the 21st century require America to utilize the full range of non-military tools as a fundamental pillar of our national security. Investments in our international affairs programs bolster our national security by allowing us to work with foreign partners to track down terrorists and weapons, to improve the economic and political lives of others, and to help stabilize fragile states.

National security and foreign policy experts across the political spectrum support an increase in the International Affairs Budget as an essential component of our national security. The 2006 National Security Strategy, the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review, the 9/11 Commission and the Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group all conclude that diplomacy and development reduce long-term threats to our national security and call for increased investments in the full range of diplomatic, development and humanitarian tools to deliver long-term U.S. foreign policy success. Despite the global financial crisis, we can move forward to develop a better strategy to demonstrate U.S. leadership with a more coherent use of foreign assistance funds.

As Defense Secretary Gates stated, "America will be grappling with a range of challenges to the international system and to our own security – from global terrorism to ethnic conflicts, to rogue nations and rising powers. And as I have said before, they will require devoting considerably more resources to non-military instruments of national power." We agree, and that is why a new strategic approach, including a robust International Affairs Budget, is so critical.

America 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 and insecurity. Continued investments in diplomatic, economic, democracy, and development programs are critical to building global stability and saving lives.

Finally, now more than ever export promotion programs funded by this budget are critical to promoting U.S. exports and helping to develop strong and transparent economies around the world. Our export promotion agencies and overseas missions open new markets for American businesses and advocate for U.S. commercial interests overseas.

The International Affairs Budget strengthens America'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. Nevertheless, the International Affairs Budget remains dangerously underfunded – currently 11 percent below Cold War levels – hindering the ability of our civilian agencies to fully participate in meeting our foreign policy goals.

Together, we must ensure that the U.S. is fully equipped to face the global challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. As you prepare the FY 2010 federal budget, we urge you to request a robust International Affairs Budget.

Sincerely,

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-elect
Presidential Transition Team
Washington, DC 20270

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Sincerely,

Co-signers of the Feinstein-Lugar and Berman-Kirk Letters
to the President-elect for a robust FY10 International Affairs Budget

SENATE LETTER

1. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
2. Richard Lugar (R-IN)
3. Christopher Dodd (D-CT)
4. Gordon Smith (R-OR)
5. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)
6. Chuck Hagel (R-NE)

7. Daniel Akaka (D-HI)
8. Max Baucus (D-MT)
9. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)
10. Christopher Bond (R-MO)
11. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
12. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
13. Jim Bunning (R-KY)
14. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
15. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)
16. Robert Casey (D-PA)
17. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
18. Norm Coleman (R-MN)
19. Susan Collins (R-ME)
20. Bob Corker (R-TN)
21. Elizabeth Dole (R-NC)
22. Richard Durbin (D-IL)
23. Russ Feingold (D-WI)
24. Tom Harkin (D-IA)
25. Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
26. Tim Johnson (D-SD)
27. Edward Kennedy (D-MA)
28. John Kerry (D-MA)
29. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
30. Herbert Kohl (D-WI)
31. Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
32. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
33. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
34. Carl Levin (D-MI)
35. Joseph Lieberman (D-CT)
36. Mel Martinez (R-FL)
37. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
38. Patty Murray (D-WA)
39. Mark Pryor (D-AR)
40. Jack Reed (D-RI)
41. Pat Roberts (R-KS)
42. John Rockefeller (D-WV)
43. Ken Salazar (D-CO)
44. Bernard Sanders (I-VT)
45. Charles Schumer (D-NY)
46. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)
47. Arlen Specter (R-PA)
48. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
49. George Voinovich (R-OH)
50. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
51. Ron Wyden (D-OR)

HOUSE LETTER

1. Howard Berman (D-CA)
2. Mark Kirk (R-IL)
3. Ben Chandler (D-KY)
4. Christopher Shays (R-CT)
5. Jim Cooper (D-TN)
6. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)
7. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)
8. Joseph Knollenberg (R-MI)
9. Vic Snyder (D-AR)
10. Dave Reichert (R-WA)

11. Gary Ackerman (D-NY)
12. Robert Andrews (D-NJ)
13. Joe Baca (D-CA)
14. Brian Baird (D-WA)
15. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
16. Melissa Bean (D-IL)
17. Shelley Berkley (D-NV)
18. Judy Biggett (R-IL)
19. Tim Bishop (D-NY)
20. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
21. Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU)
22. Dan Boren (D-OK)
23. Leonard Boswell (D-IA)
24. Robert Brady (D-PA)
25. Bruce Braley (D-IA)
26. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)
27. Lois Capps (D-CA)
28. Michael Capuano (D-MA)
29. Dennis Cardoza (D-CA)
30. Christopher Carney (D-PA)
31. Andre Carson (D-IN)
32. Kathy Castor (D-FL)
33. Travis Childers (D-MS)
34. Yvette Clarke (D-NY)
35. William Lacy Clay (D-MO)
36. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)
37. Stephen Cohen (D-TN)
38. Jim Costa (D-CA)
39. Joseph Courtney (D-CT)
40. Joseph Crowley (D-NY)
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46. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
47. Thelma Drake (R-VA)
48. Eliot Engel (D-NY)
49. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
50. Bob Etheridge (D-NC)
51. Eni Faleomavaega (D-AS)
52. Sam Farr (D-CA)
53. Chaka Fattah (D-PA)
54. Bob Filner (D-CA)
55. Bill Foster (D-IL)
56. Barney Frank (D-MA)
57. Jim Gerlach (R-PA)
58. Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ)
59. Charles Gonzalez (D-TX)
60. Gene Green (D-TX)

61. Phil Hare (D-IL)
62. Jane Harman (D-CA)
63. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)
64. Brian Higgins (D-NY)
65. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY)
66. Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX)
67. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
68. Paul Hodes (D-NH)
69. Rush Holt (D-NJ)
70. Michael Honda (D-CA)
71. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
72. Bob Inglis (R-SC)
73. Jay Inslee (D-WA)
74. Steve Israel (D-NY)
75. Jesse Jackson (D-IL)
76. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
77. William Jefferson (D-LA)
78. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
79. Hank Johnson (D-GA)
80. Timothy Johnson (R-IL)
81. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI)
82. Ron Kind (D-WI)
83. Ron Klein (D-FL)
84. James Langevin (D-RI)
85. Rick Larsen (D-WA)
86. John Larson (D-CT)
87. Barbara Lee (D-CA)
88. Sander Levin (D-MI)
89. John Lewis (D-GA)
90. Dan Lipinski (D-IL)
91. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)
92. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
93. Stephen Lynch (D-MA)
94. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)
95. Edward Markey (D-MA)
96. Doris Matsui (D-CA)
97. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
98. Jim McDermott (D-WA)
99. James McGovern (D-MA)
100. John McHugh (R-NY)
101. Gerald McNeerney (D-CA)
102. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
103. Michael Michaud (D-ME)
104. Brad Miller (D-NC)
105. Henry Mitchell (D-AZ)
106. Dennis Moore (D-KS)
107. Gwen Moore (D-WI)
108. James Moran (D-VA)
109. Christopher Murphy (D-CT)
110. Patrick Murphy (D-PA)
111. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
112. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
113. James Oberstar (D-MN)
114. John Olver (D-MA)
115. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
116. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)
117. Ed Pastor (D-AZ)
118. Donald Payne (D-NJ)
119. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)
120. Todd Platts (R-PA)
121. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND)

122. David Price (D-NC)
123. Charles Rangel (D-NY)
124. Steven Rothman (D-NJ)
125. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
126. C.A. Ruppertsberger (D-MD)
127. Bobby Rush (D-IL)
128. John T. Salazar (D-CO)
129. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
130. John Sarbanes (D-MD)
131. Jim Saxton (R-NJ)
132. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)
133. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
134. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA)
135. David Scott (D-NY)
136. Jose Serrano (D-NY)
137. Joe Sestak (D-PA)
138. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH)
139. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
140. John Shimkus (R-IL)
141. Heath Shuler (D-NC)
142. Albio Sires (D-NJ)
143. Ike Skelton (D-MO)
144. Louise Slaughter (D-NY)
145. Adam Smith (D-WA)
146. Lamar Smith (R-TX)
147. Hilda Solis (D-CA)
148. Zach Space (D-OH)
149. Betty Sutton (D-OH)
150. John Tierney (D-MA)
151. Edolphus Towns (D-NY)
152. Mark Udall (D-CO)
153. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
154. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)
155. Tim Walz (D-MN)
156. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
157. Maxine Waters (D-CA)
158. Diane Watson (D-CA)
159. Henry Waxman (D-CA)
160. Anthony Weiner (D-NY)
161. Peter Welch (D-VT)
162. Jerry Weller (R-IL)
163. Robert Wexler (D-FL)
164. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)
165. David Wu (D-OR)
166. John Yarmuth (D-KY)