

GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

327 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-1492

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL SERVICE,  
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION,  
AND PROCUREMENT

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4611**

FAIRFAX OFFICE:

4115 ANNANDALE ROAD  
SUITE 103  
ANNANDALE, VA 22003  
(703) 256-3071

PRINCE WILLIAM OFFICE:

4308 RIDGEWOOD CENTER DRIVE  
WOODBIDGE, VA 22192  
(703) 670-4989

March 29, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman, House Budget Committee  
207 Cannon House Office Building

Dear Speaker Pelosi & Chairman Spratt,

As new Members in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, we are writing to express our strong support for \$58.5 billion for State Department Operations and International Affairs programs in fiscal year 2011. As the Committee prepares the House budget resolution for FY11, we wish to protect the modest increase in the President's International Affairs budget request, 2.8% over FY10 requested funds.

It is critical for the U.S. to have a full range of tools at its disposal to meet today's global challenges. Numerous bipartisan commissions, among them the 2006 National Security Strategy, the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review, the 9/11 Commission and the Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group, have concluded that increases in the International Affairs Budget are essential to ensuring U.S. security in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

These commissions, like the signatories of our letter, know that we live in an increasingly interconnected world where infectious diseases, failed states, economic despair and terrorism don't observe national borders. The sobering realities of today's world demand that America utilize the full range of its non-military tools as a primary 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, to help stabilize fragile states, and to increase goodwill abroad.

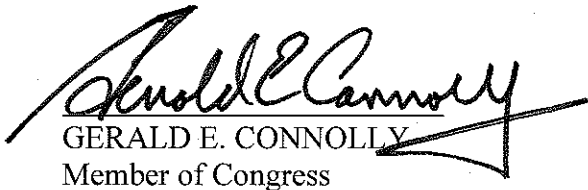
But it's not just about security. It's also about the economy and jobs. With 1 in 5 U.S. jobs export-related, the International Affairs Budget is critical to creating jobs and economic growth here at home by expanding export markets overseas.

Few people represent this consensus as well as Defense Secretary Gates, who has served with distinction in both Democratic and Republican administrations. With his decades of experience,

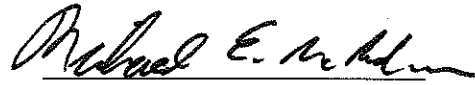
Sec. Gates knows the importance of diplomacy and development in U.S. foreign policymaking. As he stated, "America will be grappling with a range of challenges to the international system and to our own security – from global terrorism to ethnic conflicts, to rogue nations and rising powers. And as I have said before, they will require devoting considerably more resources to non-military instruments of national power." We agree, which is why a new stronger International Affairs Budget is so vital.

As we prepare the FY2011 budget, we ought to ensure that the U.S. is fully equipped to face the global challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. We strongly support the President's requested budget levels for the 150 function.

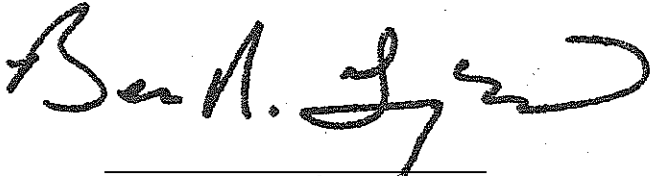
Sincerely,



GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress



MICHAEL McMAHON  
Member of Congress



BEN RAY LUJÁN  
Member of Congress




JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress




MARY JO KILROY  
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE  
Member of Congress



MIKE QUIGLEY  
Member of Congress



ALAN GRAYSON  
Member of Congress