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**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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May 21, 2010

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DOUGLAS C. ANDERSON  
REPUBLICAN CHIEF COUNSEL

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H218 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

As you prepare to make the FY 2011 302(b) allocations, we urge you to allocate no less than \$58.8 billion for the International Affairs Budget, the amount requested by President Obama. This funding level reflects a growing bipartisan consensus among our nation's foreign policy and military leadership that modest increases in this account are necessary to help protect U.S. national security and ensure a more stable and prosperous world.

The International Affairs Budget represents less than 1.5% of the total federal budget and yet it funds all of America's development and diplomacy tools – two of the three pillars of U.S. national security. National security and foreign policy experts across the political spectrum – including Secretary Gates, Secretary Clinton, and all eight former Secretaries of State -- agree the International Affairs Budget is essential to protecting our national security and support increased funding for development and diplomatic programs.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has stated "I strongly believe a robust civilian foreign affairs capability, coupled with a strong defense capability, is essential to preserving U.S. national security interests around the world." The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen, has echoed this call for whole-of-government approaches to national security. Similarly, more than 50 retired generals and admirals recently wrote to Congress that "Our national security is dependent not only on a strong military force but also on increased investments in the full range of diplomatic, development and humanitarian tools funded through the International Affairs Budget."

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently stated that "Congress has rightly demanded that we use all tools in our national security tool belt...Cuts to civilian components can no longer be seen in isolation as having little impact on our national security strategy."

Last month, eight former Secretaries of State declared their strong support for the President's International Affairs Budget request in a joint letter to Congress, writing that "Increasing the investment in our civilian international capabilities will keep America safer by, among other things, addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism, supporting key allies, and demonstrating America's proud tradition of global leadership."

The International Affairs Budget is also essential to our economic interests, and as a reflection of America's moral values and compassion for those in need around the world, as evidenced so dramatically by our assistance to Haiti following the devastating earthquake that struck that country. On-going development programs in areas such as global health, agriculture, and education programs save millions of lives. On the economic front, development and diplomacy programs play a significant role in creating American jobs by promoting U.S. exports, building more reliable trading partners, protecting intellectual property rights, and advocating for American businesses abroad. With one out of five American jobs now tied to international trade, export promotion programs funded by the International Affairs Budget are essential to economic growth and are indispensable to reaching President Obama's goal of doubling exports within five years.

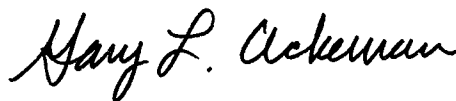
Last fall, 189 bipartisan members of the House signed a letter to President Obama calling for a robust International Affairs Budget. The Administration's \$58.8 billion request heeds those calls, with the vast majority of the proposed \$6.1 billion increase devoted solely to the "Frontline States" of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.

The International Affairs Budget is a smart and cost-effective investment. We urge you to provide no less than \$58.8 billion for the 302(b) allocation for the FY11 International Affairs Budget.

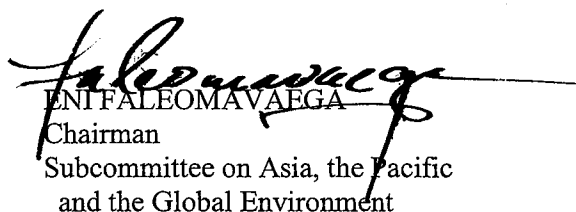
Sincerely,



HOWARD L. BERMAN  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Affairs



GARY ACKERMAN  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia



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Chairman  
Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific  
and the Global Environment



DONALD PAYNE  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health



BRAD SHERMAN  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Terrorism,  
Nonproliferation and Trade



ELIOT ENGEL  
Chairman  
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BILL DELAHUNT  
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Subcommittee on International  
Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight