

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 26, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

As you consider 302(b) allocations among Appropriations Subcommittees, we urge you to allocate for the International Affairs Budget no less than \$53.8 billion, the amount requested by the Obama administration and approved by the Senate by unanimous consent.

Maintaining the President's requested level of funding for international affairs is critical to protecting our national security, enhancing our civilian capacity, continuing our humanitarian activities and furthering our economic interests abroad.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has clearly outlined the key elements of United States foreign policy: diplomacy, development, and defense. Adequately funding diplomacy and development will help reduce our reliance on the Department of Defense budget to fund foreign affairs activities. Such an approach serves to distinguish the conduct of foreign affairs and diplomacy from defense activities. As Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has said: "What is clear to me is that there is a need for a dramatic increase in spending on the civilian instruments of national security – diplomacy, strategic communications, foreign assistance, civic action, and economic reconstruction and development."

Foreign policy, national security and military experts from across the political spectrum concur and echo these calls for an increase of the International Affairs Budget as a critical component of national security.

The International Affairs Budget comprises just 1.4 percent of the total FY2010 Budget request, and yet funds all State Department operations, foreign aid and foreign policy programs, our diplomatic programs, global health initiatives on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, and humanitarian assistance to help stabilize fragile states, reduce global poverty and assist refugees.

We urge you to consider these priorities and the Senate's strong support for them, and allocate no less than \$53.8 billion for the 302(b) allocation for the FY 2010 International Affairs Budget.

Sincerely,



Richard Lugar
United States Senator



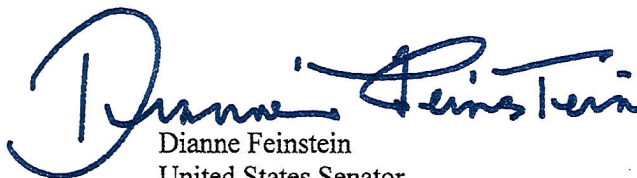
John Kerry
United States Senator



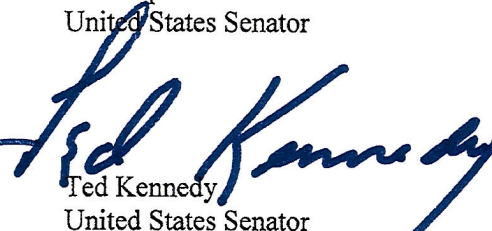
Richard Durbin
United States Senator



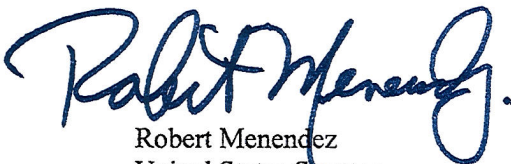
Christopher Dodd
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Ted Kennedy
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Joseph Lieberman
United States Senator



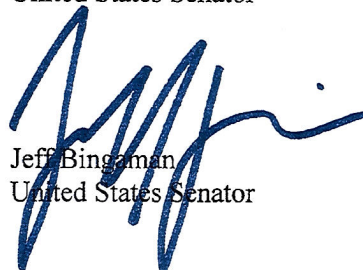
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Bob Casey
United States Senator



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator



Ted Kaufman
United States Senator