

## RETIRED MILITARY LEADERS URGE OPPOSITION TO AMENDMENTS TO CUT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

March 22, 2013

Dear Senator:

As co-chairs of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition's National Security Advisory Council, a group of more than 115 retired three- and four-star generals and admirals, we are writing to express our opposition to the amendments to the FY14 budget resolution offered by Senator Paul and others to impose deep cuts to U.S. foreign assistance.

While we recognize the very restrained budget environment, imposing additional cuts on development and diplomacy programs – only 1% of the federal budget – would do very little to address our nation's fiscal problems. But they would diminish America's influence at a time of increasing global threats and competitors.

Our nation's military strength is not sufficient on its own to defend America's security, protect our most vital national interests, sustain and bolster economic growth and, in particular, address the deep-rooted causes of violence and instability around the world. To deal with these challenges, the U.S. must balance strategically all three aspects of national power and international influence—defense, diplomacy, and development. Yet, too often, the resources for our civilian instruments of diplomacy and international development have not been sufficiently funded and staffed.

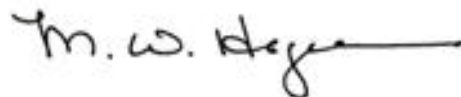
As career uniformed leaders, we have seen first-hand that U.S. foreign assistance is a critical component, along with a robust military, of America's national security strategy. And we know that these programs help achieve U.S. foreign policy goals at a far lower cost (in lives and dollars) than the military. That is why we urge opposition to the amendments to cut foreign assistance.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Admiral James M. Loy, USCG (Ret.)  
Co-Chair, National Security Advisory Council



General Michael W. Hagee, USMC (Ret.)  
Co-Chair, National Security Advisory Council

*A full list of the National Security Advisory Council is attached*

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Commander, International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (‘07-‘08)

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