

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 28, 2014

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Chairman  
Budget Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Ranking Member  
Budget Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Ryan and Rogers and Ranking Members Van Hollen and Lowey:

As veterans of the military, we write to share our views on protecting America's national security and the need to ensure strong funding for development and diplomacy programs.

During our military service, we saw that the civilian-led instruments of diplomacy and international development play an integral role in America's power and influence. America's military might and the work of our servicemen and women is not sufficient in addressing the numerous security threats that face our nation around the world.

We concur with the words of Admiral James Stavridis and General Anthony Zinni, who wrote recently that "American troops can fight wars, but they cannot address the problems that most likely led to the conflict in the first place like failed governments, structural economic problems, and extreme poverty." Moreover, international development and diplomacy programs are one of the most cost-effective means our nation has to confront the threats we face today.

In order to tackle the security threats in today's volatile world, our nation must invest in a strong military and strong civilian-led International Affairs programs. These investments, while modest in size, provide a significant return when it comes to defending the interests and security of the American people. That is why we urge you to provide strong funding for International Affairs programs in the FY15 budget and appropriations bills.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

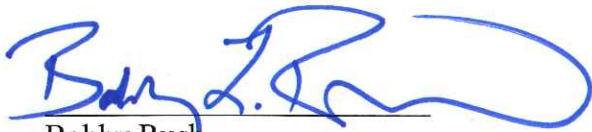
Sincerely,



Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress



Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



William Enyart  
Member of Congress



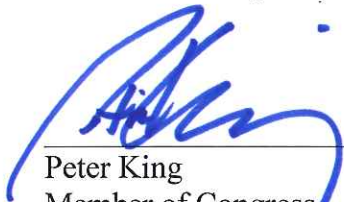
Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Gary Peters  
Member of Congress



Peter King  
Member of Congress



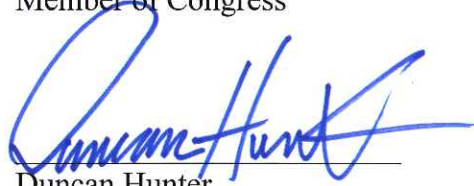
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



Bobby Scott  
Member of Congress