



March 24, 2014

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the more than 400 business and NGO members of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC), including business, military, and faith-based leaders in all 50 states, we urge you to support a strong 302(b) allocation for the FY15 State-Foreign Operations bill that will protect these accounts from further deep and disproportionate cuts.

As you know well, International Affairs programs that comprise the State-Foreign Operations bill are critical tools for advancing America's national security and economic interests and responding to humanitarian crises. For 1% of total federal spending, these programs are cost-effective investments that tackle the root causes of conflict and extremism to ensure we only need to deploy the military as a last resort, saving American lives. They also are vital to building new markets for U.S. goods and services and creating good jobs and opportunities for those here at home. As we see with the crises of Syria and Ukraine, it is of the utmost importance that we provide the resources for an effective response.

America's development and diplomacy accounts have sustained deep and disproportionate cuts in recent years – 14% below FY10 enacted levels and targeted for even steeper cuts. With so many global hotspots and the need for U.S. leadership great than ever, our country cannot afford further deep cuts to these crucial programs.

The modest investments we make in the International Affairs Budget are fundamental to building a better, safer world. We urge you to support a strong 302(b) allocation for the FY15 International Affairs Budget so that these programs will not have to face further deep or disproportionate cuts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lane".

Bill Lane, Caterpillar
USGLC Co-President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn Miles".

Carolyn Miles, Save the Children
USGLC Co-President

CC: The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader
The Honorable Kay Granger, Chairwoman, State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee

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