



March 23, 2012

Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

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 oppose the cuts to development and diplomacy programs in the House Budget Committee's FY13 budget resolution.

Our coalition recognizes the gravity of America's fiscal challenges, and we agree that all departments and agencies must contribute their fair share to reducing our national debt. We are very concerned, however, that development and diplomacy accounts are being forced to shoulder an inequitable share of the reductions in federal spending.

From a high of \$51.3 billion in FY10 to \$43.7 billion in FY12, the International Affairs Budget outside of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) has fallen 15% in just the last two years. In FY11, these programs absorbed nearly 20% of total government-wide spending cuts – even though they constitute only 1% of the budget. The House Budget Committee's FY2013 budget resolution cuts non-OCO International Affairs programs again – 15% below the President's request. Compared to current (FY12) levels, the budget resolution cuts the entire International Affairs Budget, including OCO programs, by 11%.

These reductions threaten America's global engagement and competitiveness, and they come at a time of significant challenges for our nation on the world stage. From the Arab Spring and famine in the Horn of Africa to an increasingly assertive China and the military drawdown in Iraq and Afghanistan – it's more important than ever that U.S. development and diplomacy programs be strong and adequately resourced.

International Affairs programs are strategic, cost-effective investments that pay enormous dividends. Boosting exports and developing new markets overseas for American goods and services is essential to getting our economy back on a strong footing. Partnering with key allies in the war on terror and preventing countries from falling into conflict helps promote a more peaceful and stable world. And fighting disease, malnutrition and illiteracy saves lives and reinforces the humanitarian values and compassion of the United States.

Now is not the time to retreat in support of programs that do so much to protect and strengthen America. We urge you to fully fund the FY2013 International Affairs Budget and oppose the cuts to development and diplomacy programs in the House Budget Committee's FY13 budget resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Rupp".

George Rupp, International Rescue Committee
Co-Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Lane".

Bill Lane, Caterpillar
Co-Chairman

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