

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 18, 2005

Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

We are writing to express our deep concern over the continuing humanitarian crisis in Pakistan, and to urge that additional resources be made available for relief and reconstruction without coming at the expense of other humanitarian emergencies.

As you know, the earthquake that struck Pakistan, India and Afghanistan on October 8 left nearly 75,000 dead, many more severely injured and at least 3 million homeless, mostly in remote areas. Aftershocks, rugged terrain and damaged or collapsed infrastructure have continued to hamper the delivery of relief supplies. With the onset of cold weather, tens or possibly hundreds of thousands more lives are at risk.

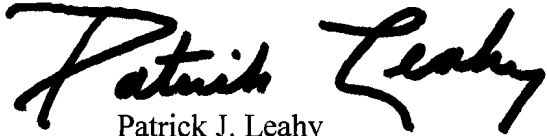
The U.S. pledge of \$100 million in humanitarian assistance and \$56 million in Department of Defense expenses, while welcome, is clearly insufficient to meet the needs of Pakistanis who are without adequate food and shelter. A preliminary needs assessment by the Asian Development Bank estimated the cost of effectively implementing a relief, recovery and reconstruction strategy at \$5.2 billion; traditionally the United States has pledged to cover approximately one-quarter of the costs in such situations.

It is our understanding that USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance has set aside an additional \$100 million for Pakistan, over and above the amounts initially pledged. However, this appears to have come at the cost of other priority humanitarian aid programs – such as Darfur. Ensuring the survival of disaster victims in one part of the world should not mean abandoning vulnerable populations in another.

As a first step toward identifying resources for relief and reconstruction in Pakistan, we would recommend that you look toward the \$600 million in Economic Support Funds and Foreign Military Financing that has been appropriated for Pakistan in FY 2006. We would urge you to consider reprogramming some of these funds to address the immediate crisis, and replenish them through an emergency supplemental early next year. At a minimum, the funds diverted from Darfur and other humanitarian relief efforts should be repaid from the supplemental.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you to ensure that Pakistani earthquake survivors receive the necessary assistance to brave the winter ahead and begin rebuilding their lives and communities.

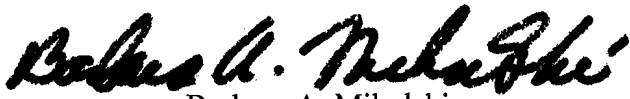
Sincerely,



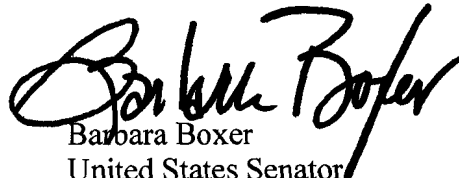
Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator



Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senator



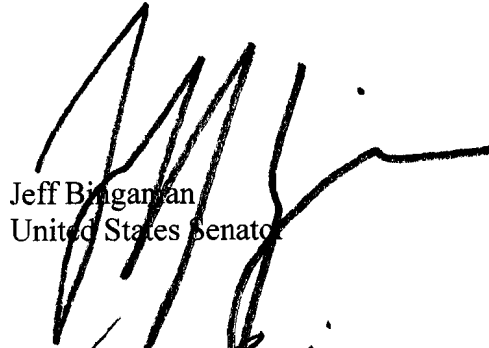
Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



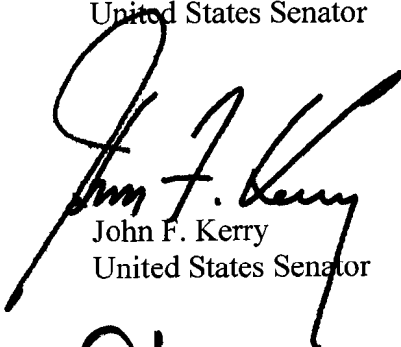
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



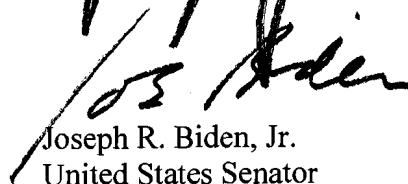
Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator



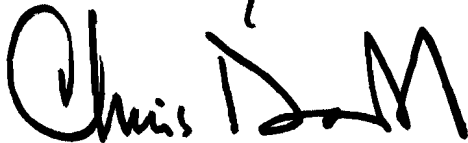
Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator



John F. Kerry
United States Senator



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senator



Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senator