

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2007

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare your Fiscal Year 2009 budget, we are writing to express bipartisan support for an increase in the International Affairs Budget – one that reinforces the continued commitment of Congress and your Administration to invest in strategic tools that are essential to protecting our national security, building economic prosperity and demonstrating our moral values.

We live in an interconnected world where infectious diseases and terrorism have no borders. America's security and prosperity is linked with the security and prosperity of other nations. The global realities of the 21st century require America to utilize the full range of non-military tools as a fundamental pillar of our national security. Investments in our international affairs programs bolster our national security by allowing us to work with foreign partners to track down terrorists overseas, to secure dangerous weapons wherever they are found, and to help stabilize fragile states.

National security and foreign policy experts support an increase in the International Affairs Budget as a key component of our national security. The 2006 National Security Strategy reaffirmed that "Development reinforces diplomacy and defense, reducing long-term threats to our national security by helping to build stable, prosperous, and peaceful societies." The Pentagon's 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review cited the lack of U.S. civilian international capacity as hindering the Pentagon's core mission to defend the United States. Furthermore, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission called for an increased investment in the full range of diplomatic, development and humanitarian tools to deliver long-term success for U.S. foreign policy.

In addition, America has a proud history of bringing hope to millions of people who live under oppressive poverty, face starvation, battle HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and suffer the consequences of conflict and insecurity. Investments in our diplomatic, economic and development programs are critical to saving lives, restoring America's capacity to engage the world, and building global stability.

Investments in our export promotion agencies and overseas missions open new markets for America's businesses and advocate for U.S. commercial interests overseas. These programs help developing countries to fully participate in the world economy which create economic opportunities at home and abroad. Moreover, the International Affairs Budget strengthens America's civilian capabilities and energizes our outreach to the world through vigorous public

diplomacy, educational and cultural exchanges, and capable, secure embassies and diplomats who provide the first line of offense for America's interests abroad. Despite modest increases, the International Affairs Budget remains dangerously underfunded, 17 percent below Cold War levels, hindering the ability of our civilian agencies to adequately participate in meeting our foreign policy goals.

Together we must ensure that the U.S. is fully equipped to face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Despite progress in restoring dangerously low levels of funding for the International Affairs Budget, much more needs to be accomplished. As you prepare the FY09 Federal Budget, we urge you to continue to increase funding for U.S. International Affairs programs.

Sincerely,

Howard T. Berman

Christopher Shays

John Dingell

Ben Chandler

Edward J. Markey

Tom Lantos

Erin L. Engle

Robert H. Menendez

David Price

Haym A. Wapner

Robt Emanuel

Vic Snyder

Peter Weld

Ernie Smiley

Ron Kind

Tom Udon

Hilda L. Alis

Raymond

Leonard L. Bawell

Sven Smorre

Ed Panny

Carol Shea-Power

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Dave Lobsack

MapleWatts

Starr Rothman

Joe Kukulski Jim Oberstar

Alfred Hastings

Rosa L. DeLauro

Blaylock

John Smith

Joseph Crowley

Bobby L. Rush

DeLoach

Maxine Baucus

Frank Lautenberg

John E. Sununu

Donald M. Payne Jim Moran

Robert Weyler Brad Green

Gary L. Ackerman Wayne T. Gehrert

Ray Cook Lynn Woodcox

Carolyn C. Kilstrom Paul Blumenauer

Robert Fattel Carolyn B. Maloney

Joseph Radler Bob Brown

Brian Baird

Barbara Lee

Jimmy Baldwin

Bill Akshof

Law D. Rolly

Ellen Tausscher

Ed Parter

Norm Dicks

Louise H. Slaughter

Allut R Wynn

Tom Lantos

Yuri Falekovich

Steve Cohen

J. B. Lamm

Rush Holt Alvin S.

John Schatz John F. Turney

Ed R. Platte Judy Buzant

Leis Carter John W. H.

Tom All Keith Ellis

T. J. H. Sam Lane

Margie K. Throno Joseph P. W.

W. J. May

Susan Davis

Paul King

Pat Stewart

Earl Orr

Jim Van Vollen

Michael W. Woods

Betty McCollum

Daniel Lymbich

Betty Sutton

Paul Fick

Michael Meckard

Mark Deane

Becky

Gary Valle Jim Langerini

Debbie Wasserman Schultz Rick Larsen

Diane E. Watson Gar Cooper

Stephen J. Lynch Tyji

Will Mike Row

Charles A. Zenger Melissa Bean

Adam B. Schiff Steve Israel

Sam Klein

Bob Inglis

John Lewis

Hander

Shelley Berkley John P. Sohn

Wm Lucy Clay

Simkusson

L. M. 7

Hales

Jan Scott

Doris O. Matsui

Gregory W. Matus

H. O. S. H.

Patricia Kennedy deCountry

Stacy A. Ayer

U.S. House of Representatives

1. Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA)
2. Rep. Christopher Shays (R-CT)
3. Rep. Ben Chandler (D-KY)
4. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL)
5. Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-NY)
6. Rep. Thomas Allen (D-ME)
7. Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA)
8. Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
9. Rep. Melissa Bean (D-IL)
10. Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV)
11. Rep. Judy Biggert (R-IL)
12. Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY)
13. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
14. Rep. Leonard Boswell (D-IA)
15. Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)
16. Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA)
17. Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA)
18. Rep. William Lacy Clay (D-MO)
19. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)
20. Rep. Stephen Cohen (D-TN)
21. Rep. Joseph Courtney (D-CT)
22. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-NY)
23. Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA)
24. Rep. William Delahunt (D-MA)
25. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
26. Rep. Norman Dicks (D-WA)
27. Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)
28. Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL)
29. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)
30. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY)
31. Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC)
32. Rep. Eni Faleomavaega (D-AS)
33. Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA)
34. Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA)
35. Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA)
36. Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA)
37. Rep. Charles Gonzalez (D-TX)
38. Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD)
39. Rep. Gene Green (D-TX)
40. Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)
41. Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY)
42. Rep. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
43. Rep. Paul Hodes (D-NH)
44. Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ)
45. Rep. Michael Honda (D-CA)
46. Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
47. Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC)
48. Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA)
49. Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)
50. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
51. Rep. Jesse Jackson (D-IL)
52. Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA)
53. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
54. Rep. Timothy Johnson (R-IL)
55. Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI)
56. Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-MI)
57. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI)
58. Rep. Ron Klein (D-FL)
59. Rep. Joseph Knollenberg (R-MI)
60. Rep. Ray LaHood (R-IL)
61. Rep. James Langevin (D-RI)
62. Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA)
63. Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)
64. Rep. John Larson (D-CT)
65. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)
66. Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI)
67. Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)
68. Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL)
69. Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)
70. Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
71. Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA)
72. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)
73. Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA)
74. Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA)
75. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
76. Rep. James McGovern (D-MA)
77. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
78. Rep. Michael Michaud (D-ME)
79. Rep. Brad Miller (D-NC)
80. Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)
81. Rep. James Moran (D-VA)
82. Rep. Christopher Murphy (D-CT)
83. Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
84. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
85. Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN)
86. Rep. John Olver (D-MA)
87. Rep. Ed Pastor (D-AZ)
88. Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ)
89. Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA)
90. Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND)
91. Rep. Jon Porter (R-NV)
92. Rep. David Price (D-NC)
93. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY)
94. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX)
95. Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR)
96. Rep. Steven Rothman (D-NJ)
97. Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL)
98. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)
99. Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)
100. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
101. Rep. David Scott (D-GA)
102. Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH)
103. Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
104. Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC)
105. Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ)
106. Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D-NY)
107. Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)
108. Rep. Vic Snyder (D-AR)
109. Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA)
110. Rep. Betty Sutton (D-OH)
111. Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)
112. Rep. John Tierney (D-MA)
113. Rep. Mark Udall (D-CO)
114. Rep. Tom Udall (D-NM)
115. Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
116. Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN)
117. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
118. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)
119. Rep. Diane Watson (D-CA)
120. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA)
121. Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT)
122. Rep. Jerry Weller (R-IL)
123. Rep. Robert Wexler (D-FL)
124. Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)
125. Rep. Albert Wynn (D-MD)

cc: The Honorable Jim Nussle, Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State
The Honorable Stephen Hadley, National Security Advisor