

United States Senate

May 26, 2010

The Hon. Patrick Leahy
The Hon. Judd Gregg
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Gregg:

As the Subcommittee begins consideration of the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations bill, I am writing to request support for the following programs, and provide more information below:

- **International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Account**

- \$500,000 above the President's request for the ILEA's, for a total of \$37.2 million, with at least \$5 million of that for the ILEA in Roswell, New Mexico.
- \$5 million above the President's request for the INCLE account, to be made available to the Department of Justice Office of Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (OPDAT) to establish a training center for Mexican prosecutors at a secure facility in Playas, New Mexico, to support the Merida Initiative's rule of law objective.

- **Economic Support Fund**

- \$10 million above the President's request for socio-economic assistance in Juarez and other border cities in Mexico, to support rule of law and human rights objectives. (An additional \$15 million is requested from the Development Assistance account for private sector economic development. Please see below.)
- \$2 million to be made available to the Department of Energy for work to improve Haiti's electricity sector and for other energy projects.
- \$250,000 to be made available to the U.S. National Park Service Office of International Affairs for work in Haiti's national parks, including the National Historic Park near Cap Hatien and Parc Martissant in Port-au-Prince. This request has also been submitted to the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.
- \$2.75 million for Technology Innovation for Sustainable Societies (TISS), the non-profit parent organization of the non-profit Darfur Stoves Project (DSP), to produce and distribute fuel-efficient cook stoves in Haiti that are suitable for the

local conditions and could be widely adopted, following completion of research and design work at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) to develop such a stove that could be produced, at least in part, in Haiti.

- **Development Assistance Account**

- \$15 million above the President's request for socio-economic assistance in Juarez and other border cities in Mexico for private sector economic development, as noted under ESF.
- \$7.8 million for USAID to establish an International Small Group Tree Planting Program (TIST) in Haiti with partners who would provide an equal amount of matching funds. USAID currently supports a TIST reforestation program in Kenya through a Global Development Alliance partnership.

Pursuant to Senate rules, I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending item(s) that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Account

International Law Enforcement Academies

I respectfully request an additional \$500,000 above the President's request for the International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEAs), for a total of \$37.2 million, with at least \$5 million to be allocated to the ILEA in Roswell, New Mexico. Both the ILEA program and ILEA-Roswell were funded at these amounts in FY2010.

ILEAs offer criminal justice curriculums that provide foreign law enforcement officials with the skills and knowledge needed to combat terrorism, combat transnational crime, and institute democratic policing practices in their countries. In addition to helping protect American citizens and businesses through strengthened international cooperation against crime, the ILEAs' mission is to buttress democratic governance through the rule of law.

ILEA-Roswell is the only ILEA located in the United States and the only ILEA that offers graduate-level instruction in a university setting. ILEA-Roswell also has the potential to expand to support security initiatives in the border region, for example, or other rule of law programs.

Merida Rule of Law Objective: Establish a Training Center for Mexican Prosecutors

I respectfully request the INCLE account be increased by \$5 million and the funds made available to the Department of Justice Office of Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (OPDAT) to establish a training center for Mexican prosecutors at a secure facility in Playas, New Mexico.

Mexico's legal system is in transition to the "adversarial" system of justice similar to that which is practiced in USA. Many prosecutors in Mexico lack experience with this method of trial, at a time when the Mexican justice system is already straining from the drug related violence disrupting Mexican society and threatening the USA, especially along the US Southwest border. Without an effective legal system to process the accused incidences of corruption and a general lack of accountability are more pronounced.

As part of the Merida Initiative, US Foreign Assistance funds are supporting various training and technical assistance pilot programs designed to facilitate this fundamental change in the Mexican legal system which is designed to provide more accountability, fairness, and transparency. One of the key contributors taking part in this bilateral collaboration is the US DOJ OPDAT program. This funding request would allow OPDAT to establish a secure training center and significantly increase assistance to Mexico in making this transition to a more fair and efficient system of justice.

New Mexico Tech (NMT) and the New Mexico Attorney General's (NMAG) office have existing relationships with officials in state attorney generals' offices throughout Mexico. NMT and the NMAG have already hosted pilot training classes for prosecutors and investigators. In the coming months NMT and the NMAG, working with the Conference of Western Attorney Generals and the New Mexico Department of Public Safety's Crime Scene Investigation Team, will hold a pilot class of a CSI/Trials Advocacy course in Playas. This pilot is being funded by USAID.

Playas is an ideal location for a Mexican training program. The training center is approximately 20 air miles from the U.S.-Mexico border and includes about 650 acres of secluded land. Prosecutors and other law enforcement officials are often targeted by drug cartels to intimidate them and undermine Mexico's legal system. Playas' remote location offers complete security. Its size allows dozens of prosecutors and investigators to be safely trained at one time over several weeks, which will promote the greater cooperation and teamwork needed in developing the skills and knowledge base to effectively implement an adversarial legal system.

With a mature program already developed in other areas of the world, OPDAT can be expected to adapt a model set of performance standards which ultimately would measure, inter

alia, impact of the training program on the efficiency, effectiveness, fairness, transparency, rule of law, and human rights of Mexican citizens.

Economic Support Fund

Socio-Economic Assistance in Mexico

I respectfully request an additional \$25 million above the Administration's total request for Mexico in the Economic Support Fund (\$10 million) and Development Assistance (\$15 million) accounts, to be used for USAID-led socio-economic projects designed to build strong and resilient Mexican institutions and communities, particularly in border cities such as Juarez, consistent with a refocused Merida Initiative strategy.

The rapidly deteriorating security situation along Mexico's northern border with the United States represents a grave challenge to both countries. From 2007 to 2009, more than 14,000 people have been killed in drug-trafficking related violence in Mexico. In 2009 alone, the border city of Ciudad Juarez suffered more than 2,600 slayings.

The violence, coupled with the country suffering its worst economic crisis in 70 years (Mexico's GDP declined by nearly 7% in 2009), have significantly frayed the social fabric of border cities. In Juarez, over 100,000 adults are unemployed; more than 60% of youth drop out of school before graduating from high school. More widely, 20 million Mexican citizens do not have enough income to purchase their basic food requirements. This frayed socio-economic fabric, along with persistent criminal justice system challenges, results in fertile conditions for criminal activities detrimental to both Mexican and U.S. interests.

While the Administration has requested \$11 million than last year in ESF and DA for Mexico, the overall scope of the challenge, made greater by the fallout from the financial crisis, as well as the renewed nature of U.S.-Mexico security cooperation, requires a significantly higher investment. To best address pressing needs, I encourage private sector competitiveness DA and rule of law / human rights DA and ESF funds be channeled to the most challenged communities along Mexico's northern border.

Department of Energy Work in Haiti

I respectfully request \$2 million from the Economic Support Fund be made available to Department of Energy (DOE) for work in Haiti relating to the electricity sector and other energy projects. Improvements the electricity sector would support economic development in Haiti.

Haiti needs infrastructure and institutional capacity to manage its electricity sector, from production to retail distribution, needs that have become more acute since the earthquake. Building Haiti's institutional capacity could help address many specific problems plaguing Haiti's energy sector. EDH has struggled to put in place a viable plan for the retail sale of

electricity, including the collection of data and payments. By some estimates, maintenance problems have cut EDH's productive capacity to less than half of its installed capacity; for example, the small wind farm installed in Port-de-Paix in 1991 has completely shut down. The electricity transmission system is an antiquated manual system that results in inefficiencies and losses. GOH is well aware of these and other problems, but needs the personnel and expertise to develop and implement solutions.

DOE has significant expertise in this area. DOE could provide policy assistance and help train personnel in the Government of Haiti (GOH) and the public utility, Electricité d'Haiti (EdH). This capacity building program should be developed according to the resources and capabilities of DOE, DOS, and USAID. DOE could help plan infrastructure improvements as Haiti rebuilds.

Haiti's challenges in the energy sector, environment, and economy are linked, and improving the functioning of the energy sector would benefit the other two. For example, the HOPE II trade preferences could potentially create 100,000 jobs in Haiti, but only if businesses have sufficient electricity to run their factories. It would be better to supply that electricity through a well-managed grid than through costly diesel generators, as is currently done. Improving the electricity supply would also help with the massive deforestation in Haiti caused by charcoal production. Small businesses, such as bakeries, are among the largest users of charcoal in Haiti. Providing these small businesses with a reliable alternative to charcoal would take pressure off of the remaining forested lands and support reforestation efforts.

U.S. National Park Service work in Haiti

I respectfully request \$250,000 from the Economic Support Fund be made available to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) Office of International Affairs for work in Haiti's national parks, including the National Historic Park near Cap Hatien and Parc Martissant in Port-au-Prince. This request has also been submitted to the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Haiti has nine historic and national parks, and they are some of the few remaining forested lands in the country. One of them, the National Historic Park (NHP), is Haiti's only World Heritage Site. NPS has the expertise and experience to help Haiti protect these parks. At the request of the Government of Haiti, and with funding from USAID, a NPS assessment team went to Haiti in 2009 to determine how NPS could help. These funds will enable NPS to help preserve two of the parks, NHP and Parc Martissant in Port-au-Prince, and ready them for visitors.

NHP is Haiti's most important cultural site and consists of the Citadel, the largest fortress in the Western Hemisphere; the Palace of Sans-Souci; the buildings of Ramiers; and the surrounding forested lands. Tens of thousands of cruise ship passengers from the nearby beaches

will visit the Citadel and Sans-Souci beginning this year. A master plan must be developed to preserve and protect NHP during this heavy use, and to train Haitian personnel to implement the plan. This has both cultural and economic benefits, since the site must be preserved if it is going to generate tourism dollars in the future.

NPS, USAID, Royal Caribbean, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Government of Haiti would collaborate on the work at NHP. NPS would assist with the development of a master plan to preserve the park. It would also produce an interpretive plan (e.g. explanations, exhibits) and design signs and wayside exhibits to enhance the tourism value of the site. In the future, NPS could expand its engagement at the park through a sister-park arrangement, for example, or by supporting the training of Haitian park managers.

Parc Martissant is 17 hectares of wooded land in Port-au-Prince, a rare site, that is surrounded by a 10 square kilometer buffer zone. FOKAL, a non-profit founded by Michele Pierre-Louis before she her tenure as Prime Minister, manages the park and buffer zone through an agreement with the Government of Haiti. FOKAL aims to preserve this urban forest and create a public park with services to the public. The United States, through the Haitian Stabilization Initiative, may support the rehabilitation of one building in the park, which would house local government bodies. FOKAL has asked NPS to help design a master plan for the park.

Cook Stoves for Haiti

I respectfully request \$2.75 million from the Economic Support Fund be made available through USAID to Technology Innovation for Sustainable Societies (TISS), the non-profit parent organization of the non-profit Darfur Stoves Project (DSP), to produce and distribute fuel-efficient cook stoves in Haiti that are suitable for the local conditions and could be widely adopted, following completion of research and design work at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) to develop such a stove that could be produced, at least in part, in Haiti.

DSP and TISS were founded by Ashok Gadgil, a scientist at LBNL, who led the development of the Berkeley-Darfur Stove after he learned that women in Darfur spent nearly a full day gathering firewood, during which they were often attacked by the Janjaweed. Many of the cook stoves available in Darfur were either unsuitable to the cooking needs of the people or not as fuel efficient as was believed. Gadgil and his team spent one month in Darfur and many more months back in the laboratory developing a better stove for Darfur, and testing it using sound science. The Berkeley-Darfur stove uses just one-third of the fuel used in a three-stone fire. DSP then set up a supply chain in which the metal stove parts are cut in Mumbai with the precision needed for the stove to be very efficient, and then assembled in Darfur, creating jobs in the local economy. I believe this process could be replicated for Haiti.

Widespread adoption of improved cook stoves in Haiti would have a significant positive impact on both human health and the environment. Currently, indoor air pollution caused by burning solid fuels indoors reduces Haitians' average lifespan by 6.6 years. Acute Lower Respiratory Illness is the number one killer of Haitian children under five. Charcoal production is a major cause of deforestation in Haiti where over 97% of the land has been deforested.

LBNL has generously agreed to provide \$100,000 to fund research and development to produce a cook stove that meets the needs of Haitians. This work will likely be completed later this summer, and given its impressive work in Darfur, it is likely DSP will be successful. At that time, the project will shift to the production and distribution stage. TISS will work with partners to develop a sustainable supply chain and a distribution network capable of reaching millions of Haitians

USAID seed funding would enable TISS to manufacture and distribute 60,000 cook stoves over two years. This pilot project would demonstrate the tangible social impact and commercial viability of TISS' model, enabling the project to attract additional financing and scale-up rapidly, as is being done in Darfur. TISS will implement the project in collaboration with international and Haitian nongovernmental organizations and microfinance institutions.

Development Assistance Account

Reforestation in Haiti

I respectfully request \$7.8 million from the Development Assistance account be made available to USAID to establish an International Small Group Tree Planting Program (TIST) in Haiti with partners who would provide an equal amount of matching funds. USAID currently supports a TIST program in Kenya through a Global Development Alliance partnership.

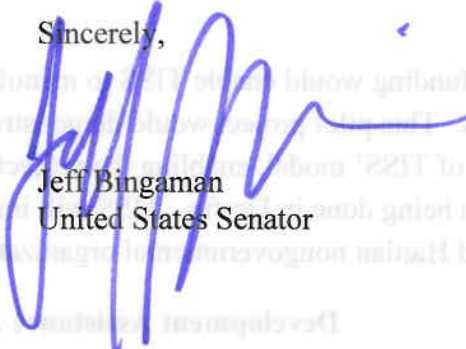
TIST is in its 10th year of successfully encouraging subsistence farmers to plant trees, protect and create biodiversity, and improve livelihoods. TIST has proven that it is a scalable and replicable program that counters deforestation, drought, erosion, and poverty while providing new income from the global carbon market to its member farmers. Today, there are over 50,000 farmers participating, over 7 million trees in the ground, and 5,000 more being planted every day in southern India, central Tanzania, southwestern Uganda and central Kenya.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and its severe environmental problems make it difficult for Haiti to develop. Over 97% of Haiti is deforested. This worsens the flooding and mud damage that occurs during the rainy season. Roads vital to economic development are damaged or destroyed. The land produces less food because much of the top soil has washed away; this deepens the malnutrition problems. Health problems are made worse as precious sources of drinking water are fouled and become unusable.

TIST's growth model is based on farmers recruiting other nearby farmers to become program participants. These farmers organize themselves into TIST Small Groups; multiple Small Groups form Clusters; multiple Clusters in a region form an Area. This model enables growth to accelerate over time, and this growth is visible in other TIST locations. USAID funds would be used to assist in TIST Small Group capacity building, sustainable livelihood education, and initial in-country organization.

Thank you for considering these requests. If you have further questions, please contact Jeffry Phan at 202-224-5839.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator