



ASK LEGISLATORS NOT TO CUT FUNDING THAT HELPS WITH DISASTERS LIKE THE FAMINE IN SOMALIA

The drought and famine in the Horn of Africa continues to escalate as more than 12 million people are now in acute need of food assistance. Yet, Congress is considering a bill that proposes to cut nearly 20 percent in funding for critical development and disaster assistance programs.

These funds are vital to programs aimed at tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger and they represent a deep commitment to America's moral leadership, national security and economic future.

In honor of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – October 17 – please ask your legislator to support smart deficit reduction, but not harmful cuts to foreign assistance.

Sign the following letter and gather additional signatures from your friends, family and colleagues.

You can find contact information for your representative by visiting www.house.gov and entering your zip code in the top right hand corner. You can find contact information for your Senator by visiting www.senate.gov and choosing your state of residence in the top right hand corner.

Date:

To:

Dear

I understand that in the current economy, and with a mounting federal deficit, you have difficult decisions to make. As Congress debates the FY12 International Affairs Budget, I urge you not to slash funding which is already less than 1 percent of the total federal budget.

The International Affairs Budget funds vital programs aimed at tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger through low-cost interventions that generate high-impact results and save lives. Investing in programs like these is far less costly than waiting to react to emergencies after they have occurred. The cuts proposed to the International Affairs Budget would have devastating consequences for the world's poorest people and reverse decades of U.S. investments in life-saving programs.

Consider the events currently unfolding in the Horn of Africa. Right now, more than 12 million people are in desperate need of life-saving assistance. Yet the bill before Congress recommends cutting nearly 20 percent of U.S. development and disaster spending. Cuts like these greatly limit U.S. investments in programs that would help to prevent future crises and respond to them when they arise.

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support smart deficit reduction, but not harmful cuts to foreign assistance. This funding positively affects millions of lives around the world, and truly reflects our deep commitment to America's moral leadership, national security and economic future.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

City/State/Zip: _____