

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 12, 2008

The United States Must Utilize All of Its Resources as part of a Comprehensive National Security Strategy

Support a strong FY 2010 International Affairs Budget

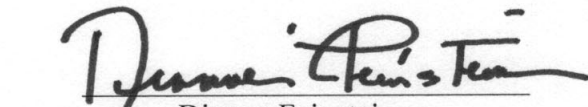
Dear Colleague,

Please join us in sending the President-Elect a bipartisan letter (on reverse) supporting robust funding for the FY 2010 International Affairs Budget as part of a comprehensive U.S. effort to protect our national security and strengthen our capacity to engage the world.

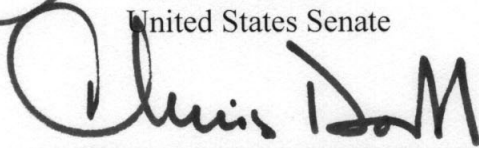
Through the International Affairs Budget, the U.S. funds programs and personnel that are critical to advancing our security, economic, and diplomatic interests overseas, and ultimately our security here at home. Given the financial crisis and uncertainty across the global economy, America must continue to invest in programs that create conditions for growth and prosperity at home and abroad while ensuring our national security.

To sign on this letter, or for more information, please contact Rich Harper in Senator Feinstein's office (4-3841 or richard_harper@feinstein.senate.gov) or Andrew Peek in Senator Smith's office (4-3753 or andrew_peek@smith.senate.gov).

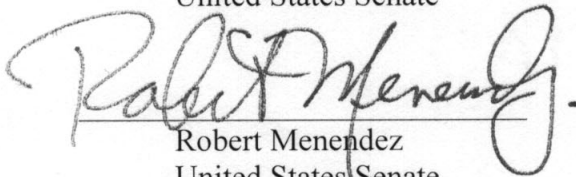
Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate



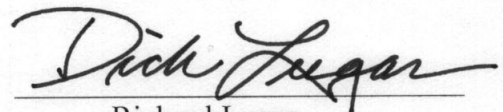
Christopher Dodd
United States Senate



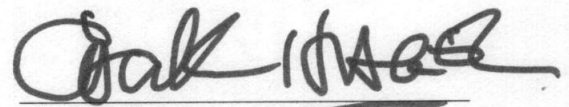
Robert Menendez
United States Senate



Gordon Smith
United States Senate



Richard Lugar
United States Senate



Chuck Hagel
United States Senate

Dear Mr. President-Elect:

As you prepare your Administration's Fiscal Year 2010 federal budget, we urge your support for a robust International Affairs Budget – one that reinforces the continued bipartisan commitment of Congress and your Administration to invest in the strategic tools that are essential to ensuring our national security, building economic prosperity and demonstrating our moral values. Given the financial crisis and uncertainty across the global economy, America must continue to invest in programs that create conditions for growth and prosperity at home and abroad while ensuring our national security.

We live in an interconnected world where infectious diseases, failed states, economic despair and terrorism have no borders. 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 and weapons, to improve the economic and political lives of others, and to help stabilize fragile states.

National security and foreign policy experts across the political spectrum support an increase in the International Affairs Budget as an essential component of our national security. The 2006 National Security Strategy, the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review, the 9/11 Commission and the Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group all conclude that diplomacy and development reduce long-term threats to our national security and call for increased investments in the full range of diplomatic, development and humanitarian tools to deliver long-term U.S. foreign policy success. Despite the global financial crisis, we can move forward to develop a better strategy to demonstrate U.S. leadership with a more coherent use of foreign assistance funds.

As Defense Secretary Gates stated, "America will be grappling with a range of challenges to the international system and to our own security – from global terrorism to ethnic conflicts, to rogue nations and rising powers. And as I have said before, they will require devoting considerably more resources to non-military instruments of national power." We agree, and that is why a new strategic approach, including a robust International Affairs Budget, is so critical.

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. Continued investments in diplomatic, economic, democracy, and development programs are critical to building global stability and saving lives.

Finally, now more than ever export promotion programs funded by this budget are critical to promoting U.S. exports and helping to develop strong and transparent economies around the world. Our export promotion agencies and overseas missions open new markets for American businesses and advocate for U.S. commercial interests overseas.

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 directly represent U.S. interests and values. Nevertheless, the International Affairs Budget remains dangerously underfunded – currently 11 percent below Cold War levels – hindering the ability of our civilian agencies to fully participate in meeting our foreign policy goals.

Together, we must ensure that the U.S. is fully equipped to face the global challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. As you prepare the FY 2010 federal budget, we urge you to request a robust International Affairs Budget.

Sincerely,