

ActionAid US • Avoided Deforestation Partners • CARE USA
Church World Service • Friends of the Earth US • Lutheran World Relief
National Wildlife Federation • Natural Resources Defense Council
Oxfam America • Population Action International • The Nature Conservancy
Union of Concerned Scientists • US Climate Action Network
Wildlife Conservation Society • World Wildlife Fund

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman Senate Foreign Operations
Subcommittee
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-127

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member Senate Foreign Operations
Subcommittee
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-12

September 16, 2011

Dear Senators Leahy and Graham:

As you continue work on the Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) Appropriations bills, on behalf of the millions of members and supporters of our above signed organizations, we urge you to defend long-standing US support for foreign assistance by fully funding the International Affairs Account, including investments in international climate change finance, within the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriation bill.

International investments to deal with the increasing challenges of climate change and extreme weather variability are essential to promote national security and minimize instability, enhance economic opportunities for US businesses and workers, provide major cost savings by reducing disaster relief, protect critical forest areas and biodiversity, and preserve decades of US investments in global development.

Extreme weather variability spurred by a warming planet will exacerbate food insecurity, water scarcity, poor health conditions, and natural disasters, often in some of the most volatile regions of the world. We are witnessing today how frequent droughts are impacting the lives of some 12 million people who are fighting for survival in the Horn of Africa. Building resilience and increasing disaster-preparedness among poor communities will help avert instability caused by migration and conflicts and save lives as well as US dollars down the road in emergency relief and military engagement. Data on disaster risk reduction show that up-front investments could result in a cost savings of \$7 to every \$1 spent.

Similarly, maintaining critical forest ecosystems is essential to mitigating losses in natural resources and biodiversity that lead to food and water insecurity, instability, and increases in greenhouse gas emissions. Protecting international forests helps support sustainable economic development, foster economic linkages with strategically important economies, and support developing countries in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

In addition, investments in a thriving clean energy sector will position the US for enormous clean

energy export opportunities in emerging economies. Investments in clean energy infrastructure in developing countries are expected to total over \$20 trillion in the next 25 years. The global market for clean energy is surging— having grown over 539% since 2004. If US businesses capture a 14% market share, which reflects current US environmental exports to developing countries, it could create up to 850,000 new American jobs.

We ask that you support these important international climate finance programs and urge that funding for these programs not come at the expense of other effective humanitarian and development assistance. These programs work together to serve the common goal of building a safer and more prosperous world.

Sincerely,

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CC: Members of the Senate State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee