

November 15, 2006

Dear President Bush and Congressional Leaders,

As leaders from diverse faith organizations, we unite today to call for a stronger commitment and increased resources for the U.S. International Affairs Budget. This budget funds U.S. humanitarian, development, and diplomatic programs and fuels our commitment to address global poverty and to provide hope and opportunity to families and children throughout the world.

While we may not agree on all issues, we unite behind the overall U.S. International Affairs Budget because it conveys America's compassion for those in need across the planet. U.S. foreign assistance programs combat diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, provide basic education to children, deliver clean water, send emergency food to prevent hunger, offer debt relief to burdened nations, and provide micro-loans so families and communities can build brighter futures.

Americans of all faiths donate millions annually to help those in need across the globe. They want to see their commitment to the poor and vulnerable abroad reflected in their government's principled commitment to helping others. Moreover, work by faith-based charities abroad is assisted through partnerships with U.S. embassies and missions. U.S. diplomats stand bravely on the front lines against religious persecution, human trafficking, and genocide in places such as Sudan. They too can be peacemakers, and their important efforts are also funded through the U.S. International Affairs Budget.

We applaud the partnership of President Bush and the Congress over the past five years to increase funding for development and diplomatic programs. Unfortunately, Congress is proposing to cut \$2 billion from the President's FY2007 request. As a statement of American values, we believe Congress should do everything it can to meet the President's request, and we urge the Administration to continue its commitment to increasing the U.S. International Affairs Budget as it prepares its FY2008 budget.

The federal budget has moral implications; it expresses our values as a people. The current U.S. International Affairs Budget, only 1.2% of our total federal budget, creates opportunities for others, while fostering more peaceful and prosperous societies and building greater friendships and understanding for our nation throughout the world.

Sincerely,



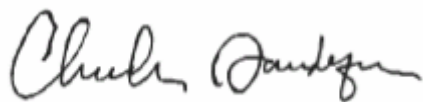
Richard Stearns, President  
World Vision



Ken Hackett, President  
Catholic Relief Services



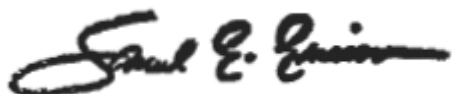
David Beckmann, President  
Bread for the World



Charles Sandefur, President  
Adventist Development and Relief Agency  
International



James E. Hug, President  
Center of Concern



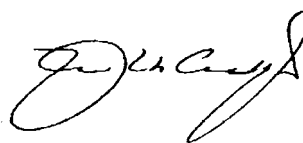
Samuel E. Ericsson, Founder and President  
Advocates International



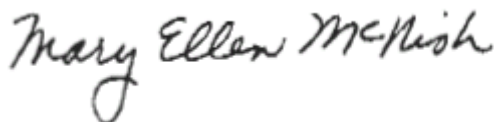
Andy Ryskamp, President, Board of Directors  
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee



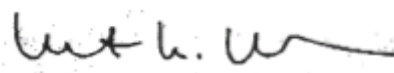
Reverend Rocco Puopolo, Director  
Africa Faith and Justice Network



Reverend John L. McCullough, Executive  
Director & CEO  
Church World Service




Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary  
American Friends Service Committee



Robert W. Radtke, President  
Episcopal Relief and Development



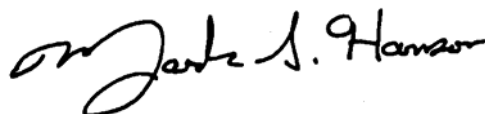
David Harris, Executive Director  
American Jewish Committee



Glenn Palmberg, President  
Evangelical Covenant Church




Daniel Mariaschin, Executive Vice President  
B'nai B'rith International



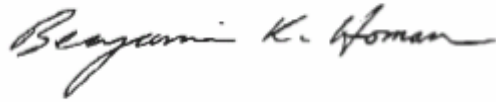
Bishop Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



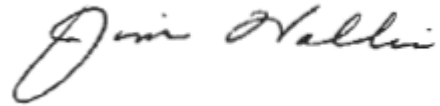
Harold C. Harder, President  
Blessings International



Craig Cole, Executive Director  
Five Talents International



Benjamin K. Homan, President and CEO  
Food for the Hungry International



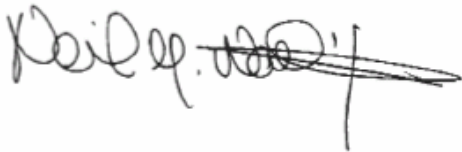
Jim Wallis, Founder and President  
Sojourners/Call to Renewal



Chris Seiple, President  
Institute for Global Engagement



Charlie Clements, President and CEO  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee



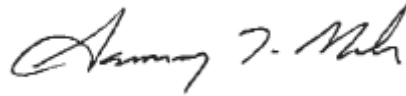
Neil Watkins, National Coordinator  
Jubilee USA Network



JoAnne Lyon, CEO  
World Hope International



Kathryn Wolford, President  
Lutheran World Relief



Sammy Mah, President  
World Relief



Bishop Beverly Shamana, Bishop  
United Methodist Church