

May 12, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Graham, and Ranking Member Schatz,

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of our development, faith-based, environment and conservation, science, foreign policy, and business organizations, we strongly urge you to stand firm with regard to Congress' constitutional power to appropriate funding and in that role, to provide robust funding in the FY26 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Act for foreign assistance, consistent with previous Acts, including investments to address the causes and consequences of climate change.

We urge you to support a strong Fiscal Year 2026 302(b) allocation, at least at the FY24 enacted level, for the subcommittee that enables the United States to advance critical development, humanitarian, and conservation goals that make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. These investments are critical to America's "soft power," enhancing our security, expanding our economic opportunities, and bolstering strategic alliances around the world. **Within that account, we further urge you to provide no less than level funding for direct climate change programs.** It is vital that this funding should not come at the expense of other effective humanitarian, development, and conservation assistance, which works together with international climate finance to build a safer and more prosperous world.

Our allies and strategic partners are deeply concerned at recent efforts to dismantle U.S. foreign assistance, end critical programs, and shut down USAID. For years, U.S. foreign assistance has had wide bipartisan support as well as support from the national security community and private sector, in addition to the organizations that partner with the U.S. to deliver programs that save lives, protect natural resources, combat poverty, and build resilience to a changing climate. These programs, implemented primarily through USAID, and the funding that supports them are a hallmark of U.S. leadership around the world and help build tremendous goodwill for the U.S. In a time of increasing global competition, ongoing humanitarian challenges, and converging crises in health, security, food, energy, and the environment, cuts to foreign assistance will compromise U.S. global leadership and weaken our international standing and influence. Many

of our developing country partners have also made it clear specifically that strengthening their ability to address the challenges of climate change is an overriding national priority.

Investments in international climate finance make the United States

- **Safer:** Investing in developing countries' resilience to extreme weather and other climate impacts enhances food and water security and helps prevent instability from arising in strategically important regions. Every dollar the U.S. spends promoting climate resilience and disaster preparedness in developing countries saves three dollars that would otherwise be spent in humanitarian assistance costs. Supporting countries' ability to protect fragile ecosystems helps stop the spillover of new zoonotic diseases to humans that can cause pandemics.
- **Stronger:** Collectively, these investments have played a critical role in formalizing closer diplomatic and economic partnerships between the U.S. and strategic countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- **More prosperous:** Supporting developing countries' transition to clean energy helps the U.S. secure access to clean energy supply chains and opens opportunities for U.S. businesses: the International Finance Corporation identified trillions of dollars in climate-smart investment opportunities in just a subset of emerging markets.¹ Furthermore, strengthening countries' capacity to protect tropical and intact forests helps prevent illegal timber trade.

In particular, we urge you to maintain funding - and long-standing capacity at USAID - for these programs, at FY24 enacted levels, including for the following accounts and line items:

Bilateral Economic Assistance, environment programs. Of funds appropriated for bilateral programs, no less than the following amounts should be made available for the following activities:

- **Adaptation: \$256 million** – supports vulnerable communities to build resilience in the face of escalating climate impacts, including severe storms, drought, decreased agricultural productivity, and increased water scarcity;
- **Renewable Energy: \$247 million** – targets sustainable, zero carbon technologies and strategies as well as energy efficiency; and
- **Sustainable Landscapes: \$176 million** – supports efforts to halt deforestation and forest degradation, promote sustainable and responsible land management and forestry, and prevent illegal logging.

Multilateral Assistance. We also request that funding be made available for the following multilateral accounts, including sufficient funding to enable headroom and flexibility, as provided in prior years under both Republican and Democratic leadership.

- **Adaptation Fund** – to continue this critical investment to provide \$400 million over four years to this fund dedicated to adaptation support in the most vulnerable countries;
- **Amazon Fund** – to support critical efforts to prevent, monitor and combat deforestation, and to promote preservation and sustainable use in the Brazilian Amazon;

¹ [Climate Investment Opportunities in Emerging Markets](#)

- **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** – as the world’s largest multilateral fund dedicated to investing in developing countries to address the climate crisis that mobilizes for every dollar nearly \$3 more from other public and private sources;
- **Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)** – with dedicated funding to support the poorest countries in the world;
- **Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund (MLF): \$49 million** – to support implementation of the Kigali Amendment to phase-down super pollutant greenhouse gas emissions; and
- **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): \$14 million** – to support the UN’s climate diplomacy and science bodies.

We are aware of past efforts to include harmful riders that would restrict our ability to provide support, including through specific multilateral channels that developing countries around the world are calling for. Congress should continue to categorically reject these provisions. We also emphasize the need for a balanced allocation of resources between adaptation and mitigation and for a higher level of grants than loans, particularly for adaptation.

Our allies and partners are calling loudly and forcefully for the U.S. to step up – not back – to respond to urgent global priorities and needs and reaffirm that when the world needs a leader, the U.S. is ready. We stand ready to assist you in ensuring that these resources achieve the goals outlined above and to drive home the message that U.S. international investments support our country’s own interests and are a critical investment in our safety, security, and strategic partnerships around the world.

Sincerely,

American Friends Service Committee

Brighter Green

Care About Climate

Catholic Climate Covenant

Center for Biological Diversity

Ceres

Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy

Clean Energy Action

Foreign Policy for America

Franciscan Action Network

Friends Committee on National Legislation

GreenLatinos

Hip Hop Caucus

Jewish Earth Alliance- PA

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Mission Green Global
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Oxfam America
Sierra Club
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sojourners
Texas Impact
The Climate Reality Project
U.S. Climate Action Network
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee