

[Date]

[Your name, postal address, and email]

Dear [Member of Congress]:

As Congress debates our country's fiscal challenges, I urge you to advocate on behalf of the poor and voiceless around the world and oppose disproportionate cuts to the International Affairs Account. While the United States has to reduce its budget deficit, this portion of the federal budget dedicated to international relief and development assistance is very small, making up less than one percent. Yet this funding is critical in combating extreme poverty, hunger, child mortality, HIV/AIDS and malaria.

The threat to the most vulnerable is real. The House of Representatives cut international food aid in FY 2012 by \$650 million, 50 percent below the average of the previous ten years. Such disproportionate cuts will have little to no impact on reducing the deficit but will result in devastating consequences to the most vulnerable communities around the globe. We should not and cannot balance the budget on the backs of the poor.

The International Affairs Budget also enjoys bipartisan support. More than being the right humanitarian thing to do, such programs help stabilize hostile regions, develop new global economic markets and can leverage private, corporate, and foundation giving.

With the U.S. government's partnership with faith-based organizations like Food for the Hungry, millions of people are alive and building self-sustaining futures, yet much remains to be done. With your support, this critical work can move forward.

Thank you for your careful consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,