

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Chris Coons
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Chairman Coons and Ranking Member Graham:

We are writing to request that the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee continue funding United States foreign assistance programs that strengthen U.S. alliances and prevent instability overseas by helping developing countries strengthen resilience to extreme weather, address environmental factors that contribute to food and water insecurity, prevent tropical deforestation, and promote low-emissions development.

We urge the Subcommittee to provide appropriations for the following programs in Fiscal Year 2025:

- At least \$3.4 billion for the Green Climate Fund
- \$64 million for the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund
- \$30 million for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change [International Organizations and Programs]
- \$100 million for Multilateral Climate Change Adaptation Funds
- \$50 million for the Least Developed Countries Fund
- At least \$3.4 billion for climate-related activities funded through Bilateral Economic Assistance, Environment Programs, including at least the following amounts for these activities:
 - \$1.1 billion for adaptation programs
 - \$702 million for renewable energy programs
 - \$451 million for sustainable landscapes programs

We believe that U.S. leadership and support is critical to mitigate humanitarian, natural resource, and economic crises and advances U.S. economic and security interests abroad. These foreign assistance programs help vulnerable populations around the world become more resilient and secure and strengthen U.S. partnerships and trust in a rapidly changing world. For many of our developing country partners, responding to climate change and the existential threat it poses to them is an overriding national priority. In a world of increasing strategic competition, the ability of the U.S. to respond and provide the assistance they need has a direct impact on our ability to exert global leadership and influence and to secure reciprocal cooperation on our own priorities.

Specifically, providing direct contributions by the United States to the Green Climate Fund would send a critically important signal of faith to our international partners that will help restore

trust and cooperation among the international community that transcends international climate change efforts. Projects funded by the Green Climate Fund leverage significant private capital. Continuing U.S. funding to the GCF will help ensure that the United States can maintain its influence on GCF programming as a Board member. We hope the Committee will support the Green Climate Fund in Fiscal Year 2025.

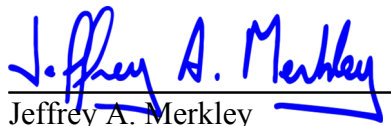
Similarly, the UNFCCC and IPCC are the premier fora for international, collaborative responses to, and improved global scientific understanding of, climate change. The Senate unanimously ratified the UNFCCC treaty in 1992, and the U.S. has pledged to remain engaged with the UNFCCC process under this administration to protect U.S. interests. The IPCC showcases the work of countless leading U.S. scientists, and its Nobel Prize-winning reports are essential to ensuring that climate policy remains grounded in fact.

Renewable energy programs support technological innovation that contributes cleaner air and increased energy access and security in developing countries, fulfilling Congress' vision of helping lift people out of poverty through access to reliable electricity by leveraging private sector and non-governmental investment. Adaptation programs reduce the impact of severe weather and natural disasters on critical infrastructure, agricultural productivity, and public health. Enhancing developing countries' ability to better prepare for disasters saves lives – and is vastly cheaper than responding to disasters once they have occurred. Finally, Sustainable Landscapes programs incent developing countries to reduce emissions and curb deforestation while addressing rural poverty and improving the way lands are managed and harvested – leveraging U.S. funding up to 39 times more funding from other donors.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has a bipartisan record of support for the GCF, UNFCCC, IPCC, and other climate, energy, and biodiversity programs, including through USAID. We urge you to continue these investments in FY25 by providing robust funding for these critically important programs and institutions in the State and Foreign Operations bill.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request.


Sincerely,





Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator





Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

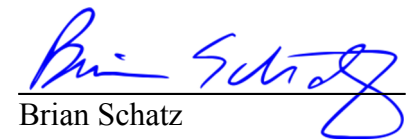

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator


Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

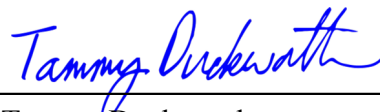

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator


Tina Smith
United States Senator


Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



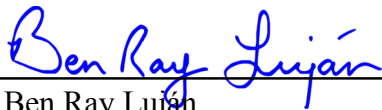
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



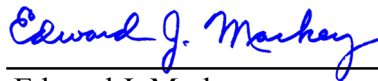
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



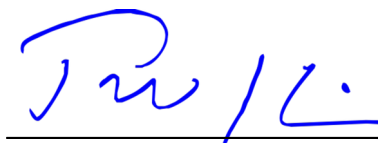
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



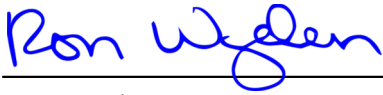
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



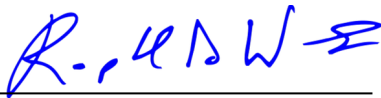
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator