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President & CEO,  
Initiative for Global  
Development

February 2, 2009

United States Senate  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

To all U.S. Senators:

The Initiative for Global Development (IGD) is a national network of business leaders that champions effective solutions to poverty. As this legislative session begins, we write to encourage your support of the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) over the course of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The MCA, which began as a presidential initiative, is now recognized by many experts as the most forward-thinking and innovative development program in our foreign assistance portfolio. We believe the MCA's founding principles are correct:

- The surest path out of poverty is through broad-based economic growth;
- U.S. assistance will have the greatest impact in countries that invest in their citizens, govern with transparency, and foster economic opportunity;
- Assistance programs will be most effective if based on the self-identified needs of recipient countries with the input of the private sector and civil society; and
- U.S. assistance should be evaluated by results not disbursements.

Since the first multi-year funding compacts were signed in 2005 and most of the current MCA compacts are still less than half completed, it is too early to measure final results definitively. However, there are early indications that projects are having the intended effects on economic activity and incomes. In addition, the "MCA effect" – policy improvements undertaken by developing countries in an effort to qualify for MCA funding – is well-documented.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation, which administers the MCA, is the only U.S. government agency explicitly charged with fostering the long-term economic development of well-governed poor countries.

We appreciate the budget constraints you face. However, in the current global economic slowdown, it is vital that we maintain programs that invest in the long-term strength of our collective economic future. Accordingly, we urge you to actively support the Millennium Challenge Account.

Sincerely,



Sally Jewell  
President & CEO  
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)



William D. Ruckelshaus  
Former EPA Administrator



William H. Clapp  
President  
Seattle International Foundation



Daniel J. Evans  
Former U.S. Senator



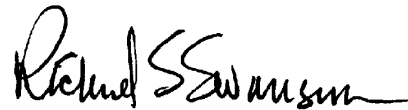
Tim M. Solso  
Chairman & CEO  
Cummins Inc.



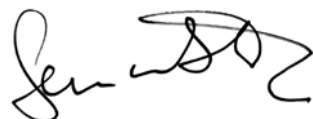
Carleton S. Fiorina  
Former Chairman  
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William H. Gates Sr.



Richard S. Swanson  
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Federal Home Loan Bank  
of Des Moines



John M. Shalikashvili  
Former Chairman  
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Carla A. Hills  
Former U.S. Trade Representative  
and Former Secretary of Housing and  
Urban Development



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The Aspen Institute



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National Association of  
Manufacturers



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Former White House Deputy Assistant  
for International Economic Affairs to  
President George W. Bush and the  
Deputy National Security Advisor for  
International Economic Affairs



Rajat Gupta  
Senior Partner Emeritus  
McKinsey & Company



Maria Eitel  
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Vice President  
Global Corporate Citizenship  
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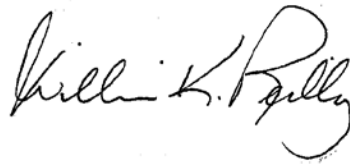
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Chairman  
Expo Communications, Inc.




George F. Russell, Jr.  
Chairman Emeritus  
Russell Investments



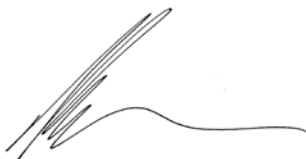
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TPG Capital, LP and Former EPA  
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