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June 13, 2008

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

The Honorable Harry Reid

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

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Former EPA Administrator

Dear Majority Leader Reid,

Bill Clapp

Chairman,
Global Partnerships

The Initiative for Global Development (IGD) is a national network of business leaders that champions effective solutions to poverty. We are writing to express our alarm at the proposed rescission of \$525 million from the Millennium Challenge Corporation's FY08 funds as part of the Senate's recently passed emergency supplemental.

Daniel J. Evans

Former U.S. Senator

The MCC is the only U.S. government agency tasked with fostering the long-term economic development of well governed poor countries. With its emphasis on country ownership, increased transparency, and measurable results, it is the most forward-thinking and innovative development initiative in our foreign assistance portfolio.

Carleton S. Fiorina

Former Chairman,
President & CEO,
Hewlett-Packard Company

A critical element of the MCC concept is the commitment of multiyear assistance to partner countries that are willing to put in the work to develop an effective compact proposal. If the current rescission is approved, the MCC will be unable to sign compacts with Burkina Faso and Namibia, two deserving countries that have already committed large amounts of their own resources to complete the compact development process. Both of these compacts were to be signed next month.

William H. Gates Sr.

John Shalikashvili
Former Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff

The programs for which the rescinded MCC funds are targeted – helping Jordan manage the influx of refugees from Iraq and providing humanitarian assistance to those affected by the global food crisis and by Cyclone Nargis – are both worthy short-term needs. It is critical, however, that MCC funds that are committed to equally worthy long-term development needs not be siphoned off for these purposes. If the United States were to start renegeing on its MCC commitments or to start denying or delaying compacts to countries that have honored their end of the process, it would send a strong message that we are not truly committed to the long-term health of developing countries and would undercut the clear incentive effect of the MCC program.

Theodore M. Solso

Chairman & CEO,
Cummins Inc.

Ironically, the kinds of infrastructure and capacity building investments the MCC funds will help poor countries to respond more effectively to external shocks such as food prices and refugees in the future. We should not be undercutting these critical investments in order to finance short-term humanitarian needs.

Richard S. Swanson

President & CEO,
Federal Home Loan
Bank of Des Moines

We urge you to restore the MCC's FY08 funding during the final negotiations on the emergency supplemental in order to preserve the U.S. commitment to reducing poverty through promoting long-term economic development.

Sincerely,



Richard Beahrs
Chairman
Expo Communications, Inc



Nancy Birdsall
President
Center for Global
Development



Richard Blum
Chairman
Blum Capital
Partners, LP



Bill Clapp
Chair
Global Partnerships




Maria Eitel
President
Nike Foundation



Daniel J. Evans
Former U.S. Senator



Carleton Fiorina
Former Chairman
President & CEO
Hewlett-Packard Company



Michael Gerson
Senior Fellow
Council on Foreign Relations



Gerald Grinstein
Former CEO
Delta Air Lines, Inc.



Sally Jewell
President & CEO
Recreational Equipment, Inc.
(R.E.I.)



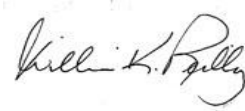
Jim Kolbe
Former Member of Congress



H.L. (Skip) Kotkins, Jr.
Chairman & CEO
Skyway Luggage
Company



Jane Nelson
Director
CSR Initiative
JFK School of Government
Harvard University



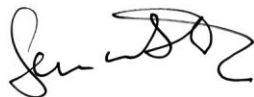
William K. Reilly
Founding Partner
Aqua International Partners



Mary Robinson
Former President of
Ireland & Former U.N.
High Commissioner for
Human Rights



William D. Ruckelshaus
Former EPA Administrator



John M. Shalikashvili
Former Chairman
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