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October 4, 2011

Dear Speaker Boehner and Majority Leader Reid:

We write to express strong support for the Administration's request for General Capital Increases (GCIs) for the World Bank Group and for several of the regional development institutions.

During the recent and unprecedented global financial crisis, the multilateral development banks (MDBs) intensified support for affected countries to help maintain the growth and stability of their economies. As a result, the MDBs are now facing a resource shortfall and need to replenish their funds to avoid drops in lending in the future. It is important that the United States (U.S.) supports this effort because of the returns it will bring to the nation going forward:

- **Promoting National Security Interests**
MDB support to strategically important regions and countries like the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan is vital to ensuring the sustained development and reform needed to achieve long-term stability. Without continuing support, U.S. national security investments in these countries could be undermined.
- **Advancing U.S. Business Opportunities Abroad**
With downside risks still threatening the global economic outlook, MDB assistance to poor and emerging economies also means preserving and advancing the interests of U.S. business and American workers of companies that trade and invest in these countries.
- **Sustaining Global Leadership and Influence in MDBs**
Continued support will ensure the U.S.' ability to influence and lead on MDBs' policy directions as well as prioritize global humanitarian initiatives in areas we deem critical, including consolidating new democracies, reducing poverty, and improving governance.

We would therefore urge the Congress to continue its longstanding, bipartisan support for the MDBs for America's self interest and for the good of the global system.

Respectfully yours,



Charlene Barshefsky



Nicholas Brady



Harold Brown



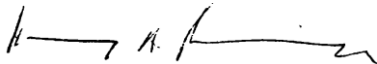
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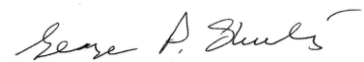
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