

BETTY McCOLLUM
4TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

1714 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6631
FAX: (202) 225-1968

165 WESTERN AVENUE NORTH
SUITE 17
ST. PAUL, MN 55102
(651) 224-9191
FAX: (651) 224-3056

www.house.gov/mccollum



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 6, 2013

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

SENIOR DEMOCRATIC WHIP

CONGRESSIONAL
GLOBAL HEALTH CAUCUS,
CO-FOUNDER

CONGRESSIONAL
NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS,
CO-CHAIR

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Lew:

As the Treasury Department prepares its initial FY2015 budget request to OMB, I write to impress upon you my support for the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for the poorest. No other international institution has the mandate, cross-sector knowledge, and resources to respond to the complex challenges facing the 2.5 billion people in the world's poorest countries.

I support IDA because of its ability to lead on global issues and deliver results. From gender equality to climate resilience to the creation of jobs that help combatants get back into society, IDA provides innovative, long-term solutions for the global common good. From 2002-2012, IDA funding helped immunize nearly half a billion children, provided access to better water sources for 123 million people, helped 65 million people receive health services, and provided prenatal care to 188 million women. During the food crisis, IDA helped get seeds and fertilizers to 8.5 million farm households, cash or food-for-work programs to 1.7 million people, and meals to 923,000 school children. These efforts not only reflect our moral concern, but also promote our national security interests and advance U.S. business opportunities abroad.

I believe IDA is a smart choice for U.S. investment, because it pools donor funds and has a distinctive capacity to leverage additional public and private resources. It is estimated that IDA has the potential to leverage up to \$9 for each dollar invested, enabling the U.S. to make an impact far beyond what we can achieve on our own. Many donors take the U.S. pledge into account when determining their own investment, so any cut in the U.S. commitment will have a similar – but downward - multiplier effect.

I know the Department of the Treasury is under serious fiscal pressure, but I urge you to maintain the level of funding the U.S. made for IDA16 in the IDA17 replenishment. A clear signal that the U.S. is willing to stretch to the maximum extent possible in the current environment is important to maintaining an investment in the future of not only the world's poorest countries, but also of the United States.

I look forward to working with you to ensure the U.S. government follows through on our commitment to IDA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty McCollum".

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress