

Thomas M. Susman
Director
Governmental Affairs Office

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
740 Fifteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-1022
(202) 662-1760
FAX: (202) 662-1762

May 24, 2010

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Bar Association, I write to urge you to sign the **Kerry-Lugar-Durbin-Bond-Feinstein** letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee supporting a robust FY 2011 International Affairs Budget.

One of the main goals of the American Bar Association is to promote the rule of law in the world. The International Affairs budget is a key component of the United States' leadership role in that effort. This account funds programs and agencies that work toward goals such as the development of trade and economic opportunities abroad, the promotion of international human rights, the protection of refugees, and the establishment of independent judicial and legal systems. For the U.S. to continue its longstanding leadership role in the international community, which is needed more today than ever before, we must devote adequate resources to our International Affairs budget.

Although accounting for less than 2% of federal spending, the International Affairs budget funds activities that strengthen our national security, enhance our economic prosperity, and support our humanitarian and democratic values. This is a wise investment that results in significant returns for the interests of the United States. We strongly urge you to sign on to the bipartisan Senate letter in support of allocating no less than the \$58.8 billion in funding requested by the Administration for the International Affairs Budget.

To sign-on to the Senate letter, please contact Steve Feldstein (202-224-4651 or Steven_Feldstein@foreign.senate.gov) in Sen. Kerry's office or Connie Veillette (202-224-6797 or Connie_Veillette@foreign.senate.gov) in Sen. Lugar's office.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Susman
Director