

## **Congressman Matthew Cartwright (PA-17)**

Members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my priorities for this upcoming fiscal year. As a member of the CJS and Financial Services sub-committees, I can appreciate the very difficult task ahead of you in balancing many competing requests. I thank you for your time and consideration.

An unceasing chorus in this country continues to cast doubt on the well settled science of climate change. And many of our citizens and leaders dramatically overestimate how much our country spends on foreign aid and underestimate both the benefits and cost savings from our overseas investments. I am here to discuss both our pursuit of preserving the environment and the value of our international aid programs.

First, I urge this committee to support funding for international activities that seek to fight climate change. Outside of this country no significant group doubts the science of climate change, and the United States must both take responsibility for our outsized historic emissions and take a leadership role internationally.

Our nation's top military leaders have long held that climate change is a "threat multiplier", making the work our military carries out around the world much more difficult. When more frequent and severe storms devastate other countries, when droughts and resource shortages destabilize already fragile states, when mass migration spurred by the effects of climate change causes rapid urbanization and economic displacement that benefits extremist groups, the United States military is affected and there to respond.

Given these realities, nearly the entire international community is rising to the challenge of combating climate change. Countries around the world are taking steps to curb their emissions and shift to green energy alternatives. 132 nations and counting having ratified their Paris Agreements, including the U.S. We must honor our commitment.

It is in that spirit that I urge you to fully fund the Green Climate Fund, which supports the efforts of developing countries in curbing their emissions. The U.S. has pledged \$3 billion of the fund's current \$100 billion budget. I request that we honor our pledge. A pledge that was instrumental in leading many other countries to pledge.

I also request continued funding for the Global Environmental Facility, an initiative pioneered by former President George W. Bush to help developing countries better measure and reduce emissions, and to invest in clean and renewable energy technologies.

I am also here today to urge you to fully fund U.S. international development efforts, which have long enjoyed strong bipartisan support. It is our moral imperative and is representative of our American values to help our neighbors. Just last week, the United Nations reported that the world is currently experiencing the "largest humanitarian crisis in the history of the United Nations" with 20 million people in Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia, and Nigeria facing starvation and famine. This is not the time to cut our international aid.

Furthermore, U.S. foreign aid is not merely philanthropic. It keeps our nation safe and stimulates the U.S. economy. As globalization continues to expand, our nation is increasingly affected by the activities of other countries. We saw this when American citizens were infected with Ebola and Zika, showing how our own health is directly linked to the health of other nations.

We see time and again our own economy improving as the markets of other nations improve; creating more and stronger customers for our exports. We also know that terrorist organizations often target the impoverished for new recruits to their cause. And foreign aid can build goodwill and reduce the need for military intervention. U.S. foreign aid helps the U.S. as much as it helps the nations it serves. And it's the right thing to do.

I therefore request that the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) are given full funding in FY18 to enable them to continue their important development work in the name of the United States. And within USAID, but with its own budget authority, I specifically request that the Development Credit Authority be fully funded at \$10 million, which will not only allow it to continue leveraging private sector resources in record numbers, but to also increase its portfolio management and support banks in utilizing their guarantees at 100%.

At a time when budgets are likely to be cut across the board for all foreign aid operations, the Development Credit Authority is an effective tool to mitigate the negative impacts of austerity by crowding in and leveraging the private sector. To date, the Development Credit Authority has leveraged more than \$4.8 billion in private sector resources at a ratio of \$1 tax dollar to \$23 private sector dollars.

I would also like to advocate for the continuation of funding for any North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Department of State, and USAID programs supporting the success of a free, independent, and democratic Ukraine, in addition to supporting the continuation of sanctions on Russia for its aggression towards Ukraine. I also request that the committee continues to support ways to strengthen relationships with nations that have a strong diaspora presence in my district, including Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland, Ireland, and Scotland.

I thank you again for your time today and the opportunity to share my requests, and I submit my written testimony for the record.