

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 10, 2011

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
State, Foreign operations  
and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
State, Foreign operations  
and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Graham,

We are writing to express concern about the ongoing crisis in areas of central Africa affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a group that terrorizes civilians and has abducted tens of thousands of children in the past 25 years. Last year, overwhelming Congressional support for the bipartisan Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act led to unprecedented international momentum for a resolution to end the conflict and a comprehensive White House strategy to address the crisis. As you prepare the FY2012 Appropriations bill, we urge you to ensure the United States Government has sufficient resources to help end the atrocities committed by the LRA, protect innocent civilians, and stabilize a region of Africa that is critical to U.S. national security interests.

The LRA – which numbers only a few hundred fighters – spans the border areas of South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Central African Republic. It is the deadliest rebel group in Congo, and has displaced hundreds of thousands of people across central Africa, including South Sudan where U.S. investments in peace and stability are critical before the country becomes independent in July.

In November 2010 the President reported to Congress a comprehensive strategy aimed at bringing LRA commanders to justice and ending the group's campaign of violence, as mandated by the bipartisan LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act passed by Congress in May 2010. If fully implemented, this strategy could have a decisive impact on seeing one of Africa's most longstanding human rights crises finally brought to an end.

While we understand the difficult budgetary challenges our nation faces, your leadership is needed to ensure that the U.S. Government has the resources at its disposal to implement the strategy that Congress required it to create. Resources invested in ending this conflict now will not only save innocent lives, but also reduce the need for expensive emergency humanitarian aid and promote stability in one of Africa's most volatile regions.

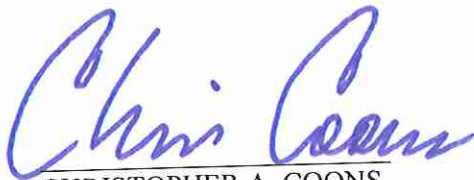
Sincerely,



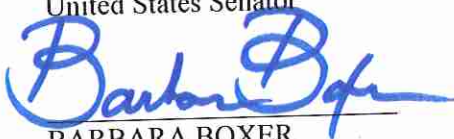
ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator



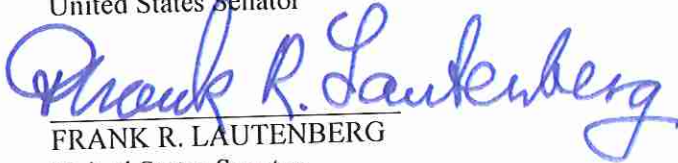
JOHN BOOZMAN  
United States Senator



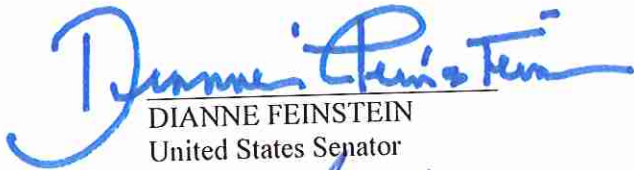
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS  
United States Senator



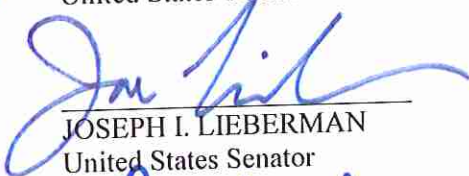
BARBARA BOXER  
United States Senator



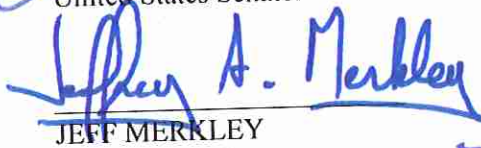
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG  
United States Senator



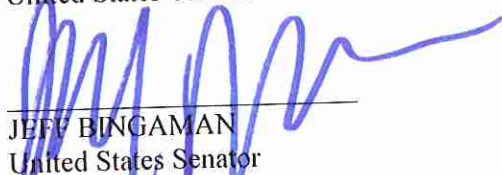
DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator



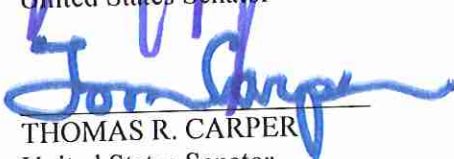
JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN  
United States Senator



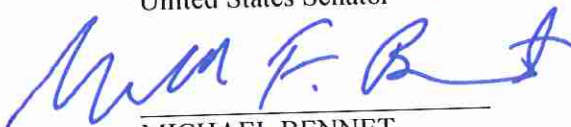
JEFF MERKLEY  
United States Senator



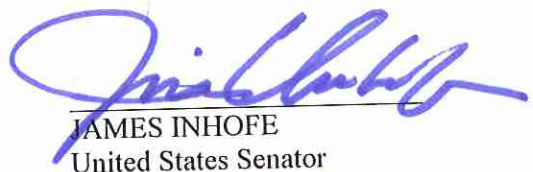
JEFF BINGAMAN  
United States Senator



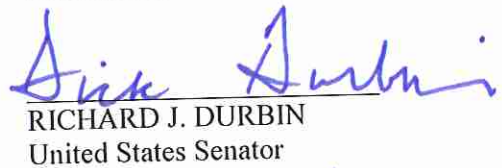
THOMAS R. CARPER  
United States Senator




MICHAEL BENNET  
United States Senator



JAMES INHOFE  
United States Senator



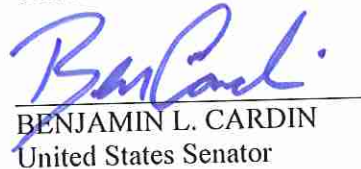
RICHARD J. DURBIN  
United States Senator



MARY L. LANDRIEU  
United States Senator



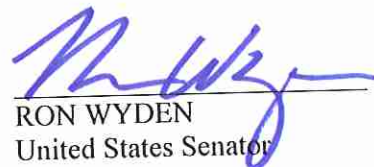
CARL LEVIN  
United States Senator



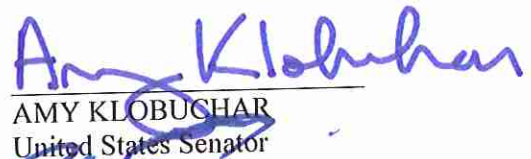
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN  
United States Senator



ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
United States Senator



RON WYDEN  
United States Senator



AMY KLOBUCHAR  
United States Senator



AL FRANKEN  
United States Senator