

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
HT-2 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lee and Ranking Member Rogers:

Thank you for your leadership in supporting life-saving programs to remove ordnance, mines, and other explosive remnants of war left on battle fields around the world. We write to respectfully request that the Committee support \$262,850,000 for Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) programs within the Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining and Related (NADR) account at the U.S. Department of State. Over the past several years, we have been pleased to see strong overall support for CWD programs. However, additional resources are needed for valuable global humanitarian demining and weapons security programs. Underfunding these life-saving programs could jeopardize the goal of eliminating U.S. legacy ordnance in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia and slow progress toward creating a mine-free Sri Lanka, Angola, and Zimbabwe. Further, additional demining funds are needed to advance stability in Afghanistan and remove threats to civilians and any remaining U.S. and coalition forces.

Since the end of Sri Lanka's decades-long civil war in 2009, U.S. demining assistance has been critical to allowing thousands of displaced families to return to their homes and develop their land. U.S. demining efforts have also enabled the reopening of schools and hospitals, the reconstruction of thousands of homes, and the reconstruction of the Jaffna railway – enabling access to Sri Lanka's northern ports. More than 254,000 mines have already been destroyed, and increased funding will keep Sri Lanka on track to be mine-impact free in the near future.

Landmines in Angola have injured more than 80,000 people since they were used in its civil war between 1975 and 2002, but with the help of U.S. foreign assistance, nearly 100,000 landmines have been destroyed. Continued destruction of these lethal hazards in Angola enables local economic development, particularly in the Okavango Delta region where the U.S. is working with the Angolan government to establish an eco-tourism industry.

Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia remain heavily impacted by U.S. cluster bombs and other explosive hazards. Laos is the most heavily bombed country in history and has suffered an estimated 50,000 casualties from explosive remnants of war. Cambodia, which contains additional significant landmine contamination has suffered over 64,000 casualties from explosive

hazards since 1964. In Vietnam, at least 105,000 casualties from explosive threats have been recorded. More resources are needed to remove this deadly detritus of war, demonstrate continued resolve to removing U.S. legacy ordnance, and strengthen diplomatic relations.

In Afghanistan, the demining sector has the capacity to support stability and security through clearing massive amounts of landmine and improvised explosive device (IED) contamination that pose a danger to civilians, humanitarian aid workers, remaining U.S. and coalition forces and personnel, and the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). The demining sector can also support the peace process and future demobilization and reintegration efforts by employing former Afghan local police and potentially ex-combatants, as it has done successfully in the past.

Zimbabwe is one of the most highly mine-impacted countries in the world, with dense, unfenced minefields close to houses, schools and clinics that in many cases separate communities from their only viable source of water. Maintaining increased support for demining in Zimbabwe will aid in economic development and help reach the goal of a mine-impact free Zimbabwe by 2025.

We urge the subcommittee to include the following report language for the CWD account:

**“The Committee recommendation includes \$262,850,000 for Conventional Weapons Destruction programs, of which \$75,000,000 is for programs in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia, \$10,000,000 is for programs in Sri Lanka, \$10,000,000 is for programs in Angola, \$4,000,000 in for programs in Zimbabwe, and \$30,000,000 is for programs in Afghanistan.”**

We are confident that if we maintain our commitment to demining and cluster munition removal efforts happening all over the world – especially in Sri Lanka, Angola, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Zimbabwe – we can create a safer and more prosperous mine and cluster munition-free world.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Anthony G. Brown.  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Joaquín Castro  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Eric A. “Rick” Crawford  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
William R. Keating  
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\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

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Ro Khanna  
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\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
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Rick Larsen  
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Mike Levin  
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Member of Congress

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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Brian Mast  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

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Franke Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

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Chris Pappas  
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

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Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

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Jan Schakowsky  
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Adam B. Schiff  
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Bradley S. Schneider  
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Brad Sherman  
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Mikie Sherrill  
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Abigail D. Spanberger  
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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

