

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 22, 2022

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations House
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 House
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 battlefields around the world. We write to respectfully request that the Committee support \$290,000,000 for Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) programs within the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related (NADR) account at the U.S. Department of State. Over the past several years, we have been pleased to see strong support for CWD programs from Congress. 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. Additional demining funds are needed to advance stability in Afghanistan and respond to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Ukraine already contained significant landmine and explosive contamination in the eastern region prior to Russia's further invasion in February 2022. Now, the country is faced with a large number of unexploded bombs in major population centers that will threaten civilians for years to come. The risk will be particularly acute as civilians continue to be displaced throughout the country. Increased funding is urgently needed to enable the elimination of these deadly devices as soon as possible.

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 262,600 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, over 105,000 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. legacy 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 for removing U.S. legacy ordnance, and strengthen diplomatic relations. Afghanistan contains extremely high levels of explosive contamination, exacerbated by the recent fighting. Landmines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and UXO pose a significant threat to communities and livelihoods. Eliminating these hazards helps support security, stability, and provides safe access for other forms of humanitarian relief.

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. Increased support for demining in Zimbabwe will aid in economic development and help reach the goal of a mine-impact free Zimbabwe in the near future.

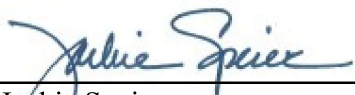
We urge the subcommittee to include the following report language for the CWD account:

“The Committee recommendation includes \$290,000,000 for Conventional Weapons Destruction programs, of which \$80,000,000 is for programs in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia (\$50,000,000 for Laos), \$10,000,000 is for programs in Sri Lanka, \$10,000,000 is for programs in Angola, \$4,000,000 is for programs in Zimbabwe, and \$30,000,000 is for programs in Afghanistan. The recommendation also includes additional funds above the prior year level for increased demining activities in Ukraine.”

We are confident that if we maintain our commitment to demining and cluster munition removal efforts around the world – especially in Ukraine, 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



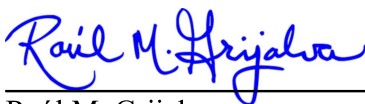
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Brian J. Mast
Member of Congress




Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



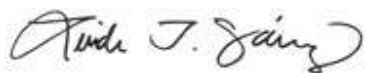
A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



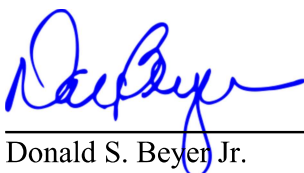
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



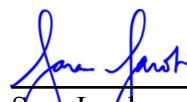
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



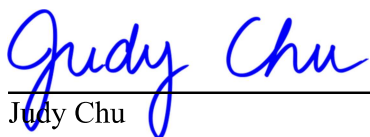
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress




Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer M.C.
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



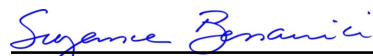
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



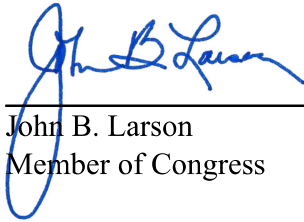
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



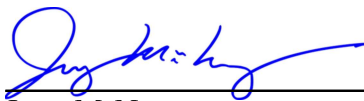
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



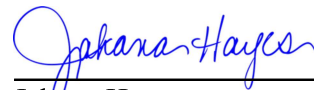
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



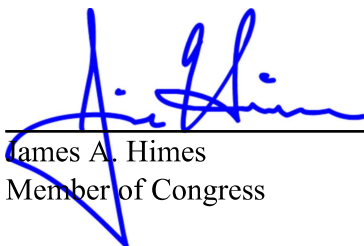
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



James A. Himes
Member of Congress



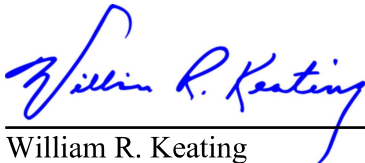
Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



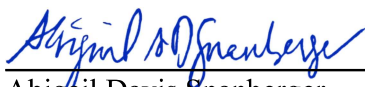
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



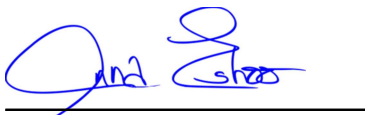
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



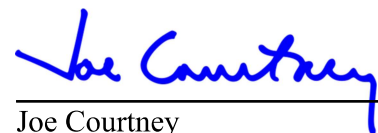
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



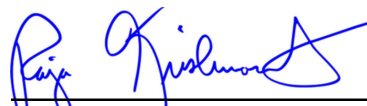
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



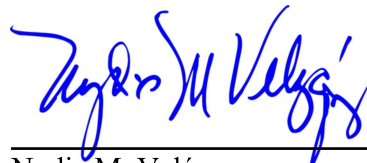
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



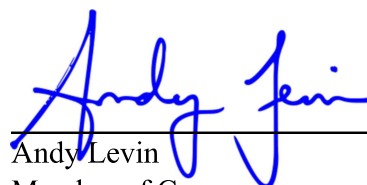
Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



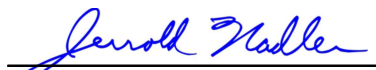
Andy Levin
Member of Congress



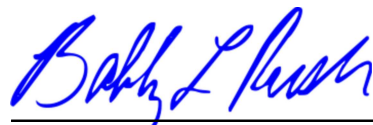
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress