



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2004

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Chairman
Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee
SD-142
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee
SH-123
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Kolbe
Chairman
House Foreign Operations Subcommittee
H-150 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Foreign Operations Subcommittee
1016 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

During consideration in Conference Committee of the Fiscal Year 2005 Foreign Operations Appropriation bill, we urge you to accept the House-passed

... This funding is critical to
volunteers around the world can
y building human capacity and
70 countries.

... appropriation for the Peace Corps of \$500 million
ensuring that the thousands of Peace Corps
continue their important service to our country
extending a bond of friendship in more than 7

... ca's commitment to advancing
ling around the world. The Peace
ans of all ages often working in
skills and representing the best of
of the Union Address, President
e Corps volunteers working around
s to the Peace Corps increased
ce Corps the growth that would allow
all to service.

The Peace Corps is a living symbol of America's
human progress, opportunity and understanding.
Corps presently has more than 7,800 American
remote towns and villages, contributing their
America's spirit of service. In his 2002 State
Bush called for doubling the number of Peace
the world. This year the number of applicants
25%, but insufficient funding denies the Peace
more Americans to answer the president's call.

... te significantly reduced the Peace
e President's request. We believe
f the Peace Corps and the many
e.

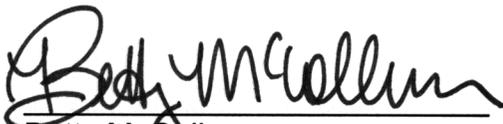
As you are aware, both the House and Senate
Corps's budget for fiscal year 2005 below the
this is potentially detrimental to the mission of
Americans who seek the opportunity to serve

The House appropriation of \$330 million would at a minimum enable the Peace Corps to continue functioning at current levels, without being forced to close any existing country programs. The possibility of closing Peace Corps programs due to budget constraints would indeed be an embarrassment. The Peace Corps is succeeding at projecting the best face of America and we should be sending more American volunteers to help fight HIV, assist small farmers and develop small businesses, not be forced to close programs.

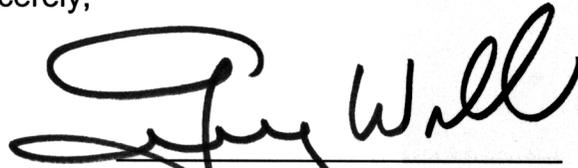
Therefore, we urge you to accept the House-passed allocation of \$330 million for the Peace Corps in fiscal year 2005 and work together to make progress toward the President's original goal of doubling the number of Peace Corps Volunteers by 2007.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



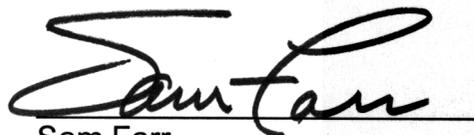
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Jerry Weller
Member of Congress



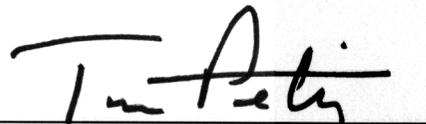
Christopher Shays
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



James Walsh
Member of Congress



Thomas Petri
Member of Congress



Henry Hyde
Member of Congress



Cass Ballenger
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Tom Lantos
Member of Congress