

Food for Peace: What Others Are Saying
Nation's National Security at Risk



"Dollars spent abroad help maintain America's economic and political leadership, as well as support our vital national-security interests. These programs have amplified benefits for global stability through contributions to poverty alleviation, health and disease prevention, and infrastructure-building worldwide."

Congressmen Adam Smith (D-WA) and Jim McDermott (D-WA)
Seattle Times
April 17, 2011

"We believe that the International Affairs Budget requires strong funding because it is an essential part of our national security.... America's national security today is dependent not only on the deterrence of a strong military force but on increased investments in the full range of diplomatic, development and humanitarian tools."

Dan Glickman
Chairman of the Center for U.S. Global Leadership
April 15, 2011

"The mix of competencies between the State Department, the Department of Defense, as well as USAID, is what is needed to address the kinds of security crises, the kinds of instabilities, the kinds of conflicts that spark up around the world, and to do those at the earliest possible warning."

William J. Lynn III
Deputy Defense Secretary
March 10, 2011

"Not only will these cuts lead to preventable deaths around the world, but they will also harm our long-term security interests. This is a classic case of being penny-wise and pound-foolish. The victims of this short-sightedness are not just the famished and diseased overseas, but the members of our very own military here at home. America's military is charged with responding to conflict, while our development assistance often targets its root causes: poverty, injustice, and desperation. Left unaddressed, these conditions fuel anger and alienation, and provide fertile recruiting grounds for violent extremists."

Brian Vogt
Senior Advisor
Partnership for Secure America
March 7, 2011

"I think it is highly significant that Adm. Mullen and Secretary Gates have repeatedly pointed out how important the foreign aid component is to our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq and have been real advocates for State Department funding."

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)
When Warriors Talk, Politicians Listen —
Well, Most of Them
CQ Today
March 7, 2011

"This is a global security crisis. The lack of food security contributes to political instability. Food was a primary reason people first took to the streets in Tunisia. Food and poverty were right at the top of the list in the squares of Egypt right next to the call for political freedom... This isn't a question of charity. It's an issue of national security, of what happens when desperate people can't find or afford food, and the anger that comes from people who see no future for their children except poverty and death."

Representative James McGovern (D-MA)
March 1, 2011

"Helping countries become more democratic, more stable, more capable of defending themselves and better at pulling themselves out of poverty is just as important for us, our national security, and our economic prosperity as it is for them."

Representative Howard L. Berman (D-CA)
March 1, 2011

"These efforts are important because over one billion people worldwide face hunger and malnutrition every day, and we know that failing agricultural systems and food shortages fuel political instability and undermine our national security interests."

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack
United States Department of Agriculture
Before the House Appropriations Committee's Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies subcommittee
March 1, 2011

"These cuts represent modest overall savings compared with other areas of the national budget and would cripple America's ability to carry out its foreign policy objectives through humanitarian and development assistance. Gutting funding to programs that have enjoyed broad bi-partisan support and receive widespread constituent support would undercut America's moral credibility and put lives at risk. Keeping commitments fosters global respect and goodwill."

Adam Taylor
Vice President of Advocacy
World Vision
February 15, 2011

"Cuts of this magnitude will be *devastating* to our national security, will render us unable to respond to unanticipated disasters, and will *damage our leadership* around the world."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Letter to Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives
February 14, 2011

"We live in a world where hunger, poverty and instability are inextricably linked. ... Now is not the time to roll back progress. Emergency hunger needs in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sudan and many other countries are high and expected to rise as food prices increase and new emergencies occur. The U.S. government is matching longstanding U.S. leadership in responding to emergencies with more robust efforts to address the long-term causes of hunger. ... Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has highlighted the value of our development and humanitarian programs as a critical U.S. foreign policy tool that helps prevent conflict, noting that '*development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers.*'"

World Food Programme
Letter to Congressional Leadership
February 9, 2011