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One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

April 8, 2025

The Honorable Brian Mast
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mast:

The Trump Administration notified Congress on March 28, 2025, of its plans to reorganize the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) by “discontinuing... functions that do not align with Administration priorities” and folding the remaining parts into the Department of State. This is an incredibly consequential attempt to “reorganize” one of the most effective pillars of our national security toolkit, and we urge you to also place a hold on the congressional notification until the Administration testifies before the Committee about the foreign assistance cuts and reorganization proposal and sufficiently responds to the requests for information we have made about the proposal.

As the Committee with constitutional oversight of foreign affairs, we owe it to the American people to fully examine this plan, not simply rubber stamp it. That includes holding a public hearing with Administration officials to explain on the record the rational and legal authority behind this proposal.

Since assuming office, President Trump – aided by Elon Musk in his role leading the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) – has moved to illegally shutdown USAID by terminating the vast majority of its programs and firing all agency staff, without cause or justification. The Administration took these actions unilaterally, without consulting Congress and

in violation of the law. The damage to America's global credibility is real, and the consequences for our national security are severe.

The March 28 congressional notification provides no meaningful detail or justification, and instead is a transparent attempt to retroactively legitimize the illegal actions this Administration has already taken. Even the notification concedes that Congress would need to change existing law for this merger to proceed – yet the Administration is plowing ahead regardless. Simply put, this Committee cannot allow the Administration to proceed with this course of action without conducting serious and robust oversight, receiving detailed plans that prove that such a reorganization is in the United States interest, and passing legislation through the House of Representatives and Senate to prescribe the lawful outcome. Absent those conditions being met, every step they continue to take to dismantle USAID as an independent federal agency is an insult to this body and an affront to its constitutional responsibilities. We will not stand idly by without doing the jobs our constituents elected us to do.

We therefore again urge you as part of this oversight to convene a full committee hearing to receive testimony from Secretary of State Marco Rubio, both in his capacity as Secretary of State and as Acting Administrator of USAID, to discuss this proposal. The complete remaking of U.S. foreign assistance is too important to rush through without Congress doing its job to evaluate such a proposal. It deserves to be discussed in a thoughtful manner between our co-equal branches of government, and the American people deserve to know that there is a responsible, deliberate process in place to ensure that our national security and foreign policy interests will not be compromised.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to working with you on the Committee's oversight of USAID and the State Department.

Sincerely,



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Ranking Member



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



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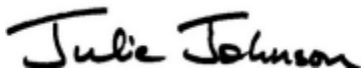
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