

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 Angolain n TJkt mi

hazards since 1964.



<u>/s/</u>	/s/	<u></u>	
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.	Colin Z. Allred	Earl Blumenauer	
Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress	
/s/	/s/	/s/	
Lisa Blunt Rochester	Donald S. Bever, Jr.	<u>/s/</u> Suzanne Bonamici	
Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress	
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/s/ Anthony G. Brown.	<u>/s/</u>	<u>/s/</u>	
		Cheri Bustos	
Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress	
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Tony Cárdenas	Salud Carbajal	André Carson	
Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress	
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<u>/s/</u>		<u>/s/</u>	
Joaquin Castro	Judy Chu	David N. Cicilline	
Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress	

<u>/s/</u>	<u>/s/</u>	<u></u>	
Bill Foster	Ruben Gallego	John Garamendi	
Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress	
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Jesús G. "Chuy" Garcíaber	of Congress		

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