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**Computer & Communications Industry Association**

April 11, 2011

Dear Representative:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA) to urge you to oppose the 27% cut to the International Affairs Budget in the House Budget Committee's FY 2012 Budget Resolution. Such a deep cut would severely curtail our "smart power" capabilities and undermine our global engagement efforts.

The International Affairs Budget funds diplomatic and development programs that are vital in promoting our nation's economic prosperity, protecting our national security, and enhancing our humanitarian values around the world. With one in five American jobs tied to international trade, the increasingly globalized nature of the economic system dictates that stable global markets are a necessary condition for the prosperity of the U.S. economy. This is particularly true for the high tech sector, which is the leading U.S. export industry. Now more than ever, the resources to achieve these goals are needed. While accounting for only about 1% of the federal budget, the programs the International Affairs Budget funds are crucial tools for creating a stable international environment enabling U.S. companies to explore new opportunities for economic engagement and trade.

CCIA recognizes that the fiscal crisis we face will require broad budgetary belt-tightening. However, International Affairs Budget programs and "smart power" contribute greatly to our national and economic security. Targeting them for such deep cuts would be the equivalent of eating our foreign policy seed corn, and we urge you to refrain from such shortsightedness.

CCIA is an international, nonprofit association of computer and communications industry firms, representing a broad cross-section of the industry including small, medium and large companies, providing goods and services in technology markets that include hardware, software, networks, electronic commerce and the Internet. CCIA is dedicated to preserving full, free and open competition throughout its industry. Our members employ over 600,000 workers and generate annual revenues in excess of \$200 billion.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Black  
President & CEO  
Computer & Communications Industry Association