



Monday, November 4, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 201510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (MFAN), a bipartisan reform coalition comprised of international development and foreign policy practitioners and experts, we thank you for your leadership on issue related to effective U.S. foreign assistance.

We write to encourage action regarding the nomination of Michelle A. Bekkering to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (Economic Policy, Economic Growth, Education, and Environment). MFAN has supported USAID's Transformation process as an opportunity for meaningful reform that would advance USAID Administrator Mark Green's worthy goal of aiding countries on their Journey to Self-Reliance. One of the most noteworthy aspects of the transformation proposal is the integration of the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment, along with the U.S. Global Development Lab, and other existing offices at USAID into the Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI). Strong leadership will be an important component in implementing this change effectively.

We at MFAN appreciate Congress's ongoing engagement with the Trump Administration to ensure that the USAID Transformation process enhances the effectiveness of our investments abroad in reducing poverty and promoting inclusive economic growth.

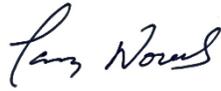
In order to ensure that this new structure is effective and that this new bureau is implemented smoothly, we recommend acting on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's favorable report of Ms. Bekkering and holding a vote to confirm her. She currently serves as the Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment and has an impressive history of public service. Our coalition feels that her leadership within the restructuring USAID is a critical piece in ensuring a well-functioning bureau and agency.

We look forward to working with you to advance U.S. values and economic and national security interests by supporting a more just, prosperous, and secure world through effective foreign assistance. MFAN Executive Director, Conor Savoy (csavoy@modernizeaid.net) is available to answer any questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,



Lester Munson
MFAN Co-Chair
Principal, BGR Group
USA



Larry Nowels
MFAN Co-Chair



Tessie San Martin
MFAN Co-Chair
President & CEO, Plan International