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12TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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May 4, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing to express grave concern over funds in the State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill being used for direct government-to-government assistance to Pakistan. Over the last year, I have raised concerns about this approach in numerous hearings, briefings, and meetings with Administration officials, and I want to further express my concerns during this time of immense uncertainty about our country's relationship with Pakistan.

The Appropriations Committee received two letters in the last week notifying us that the Administration is moving ahead with cash payments to the Government of Pakistan. Of these, I remain most troubled by the decision to provide $190 million of U.S. assistance for flood victims through the Pakistan Citizens' Damages Compensation Fund (CDCF).

As you know, I have opposed the CDCF since I was told about it last fall. The American taxpayer would be appalled to know that the United States is going to provide cash to the Pakistani Government to distribute debit cards to its citizens to rebuild their homes. My concerns regarding the program are numerous and have been raised repeatedly to Administration officials, including the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Raj Shah; the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Cameron Munter; and then-Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke.

My opposition to the program has only been heightened by the discovery of the most notorious terrorist in the world living hundreds of yards from a Pakistani military installation for more than five years. This reinforces my greater concern that the Government may be incapable of distributing U.S. funds in a transparent manner that allows proper oversight of taxpayer dollars.

Madam Secretary, I will not be able to defend this program to my constituents, especially on the day after this Administration denied federal disaster assistance to my own State of Texas after wildfires destroyed more than 2.2 million acres and 400 homes. I urge you to reconsider and suspend this activity.

Sincerely,

Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations