The Hon. Patrick Leahy, Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.  20510

Re: Your Leadership on World Bank Reforms

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to express our enormous appreciation for your successful efforts to include in the Foreign Operations Appropriations extraordinarily important language about the need for oversight of the World Bank’s activities, especially in regard to its attempt to return to mega-hydro dam construction, as well as the activities of other international financial institutions in this regard.

On behalf of the more than 80 signers of our May 24, 2013 letter to you, we thank you and recognize the leadership that you showed, not just on the World Bank but also on the other international financial institutions.

The provisions on safeguarding intact tropical rainforests from industrial logging and extraction have been urgently needed as have the directives on human rights protections and forced relocations.

We will work to see that the Obama Administration vigorously implements these provisions.

Sincerely,

Randy Hayes, Executive Director  
Foundation Earth

Brent Blackwelder, President Emeritus  
Friends of the Earth

Note: Attached is the extensive list of signers of the May 24, 2013 letter calling for World Bank President Kim to not finance giant rainforest & river destroying dams. We have notified these concerned citizens that you took decisive action.
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Brent Blackwelder       Vice-Chair, Foundation Earth*
Randy Hayes             Executive Director, Foundation Earth
Robert Goodland         Author of most of the World Bank’s Safeguard Policies
Herman Daly             Economist, Author, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland
Professor Oliver Houck   Tulane Law School
Joji Carino             Former Commissioner, World Commission on Dams; Director, Forest Peoples Programme
Professor Zygmunt Plater Boston College Law School
Mr. S. M. Mohamed Idris  President of the Consumers Association of Penang and Sahabat Alam Malaysia
Bill McKibben           Author
Paul Hawken             Author
John Seed               Founder, Rainforest Information Centre
Barbara Unmüssig        President, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin, Germany
Cormac Cullinan         Executive member, Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature
Chee Yoke Ling          Director of Programmes, Third World Network
Marcus Colchester       Senior Advisor, Forest Peoples Programme
Rex Weyler              Author, Co-founder Greenpeace International
Michael Brune           Executive Director, Sierra Club
Rev. Billy Talen        The Church of Stop Shopping
Rev. Séamus P. Finn OMI  Director, JPIC Ministry Missionary Oblates
Rabbi Michael Lerner    Editor Tikun www.tikkun.org & Chair, The Network of Spiritual Progressives
Van Jones               President & Co-Founder, Rebuild the Dream
Mike Roselle            Founder, Climate Ground Zero
Daryl Hannah            Actress/Activist
John Densmore           Doors Drummer
Jishi Peter Coyote      Zen Buddhist priest, actor-writer
Bonnie Raitt            Musician/Activist
Summer Rayne Oakes      Model-Activist, Co-founder of Source4Style
Tom Hayden              California State Senator [retired]
Dave Foreman            Executive Director, The Rewilding Institute
Carleen Pickard         Global Exchange
Medea Benjamin          CoDirector, CODEPINK & Co-founder, Global Exchange
Jakob von Uexkull       Founder, Right Livelihood Awards & World Future Council
Bill Twist              President, The Pachamama Alliance
Erich Pica              President, Friends of the Earth U.S.
David Suzuki,           Emeritus Professor of Zoology, University of British Columbia
Wade Davis              Explorer-in-Residence, National Geographic Society
Dal LaMagna             President and CEO of IceStone USA
Kenneth A. Cook         President, Environmental Working Group
Jack Santa Barbara, PhD  The Sustainable Scale Project
Charlotte Levinson      President Max & Anna Levinson Foundation
Ralph Metzner, PhD       President, Green Earth Foundation
Vinit Allen              Executive Director, Sustainable World Coalition
Henry Lee Morgenstern   Wildlife Attorney
Zoe Helene              Artist/Activist Founder, Cosmic Sister
Todd Steiner            Executive Director, Turtle Island Restoration Network
Dr. Vandana Shiva       Navdanya/Research Foundation for Science Technology & Ecology
Jodie Evans             Co-founder CODEPINK; President of Threshold Foundation
Tim Lang PhD            Professor of Food Policy, City University. England
Tom Weis                President, Climate Crisis Solutions

John Talberth           President, Center for Sustainable Economy
Text from the Consolidated Appropriations Act


http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20140113/CPRT-113-HPRT-RU00-h3547-hamdt2samdt_xml.pdf
Independent evaluations

“None of the funds appropriated under title V of this Act should be made as payment to any international financial institution unless the Secretary of the Treasury certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that such institution has a policy and practice of requiring independent, outside evaluations of each project and program loan or grant and significant analytical, non-lending activity, and the impact of such loan, grant, or activity on achieving the institution’s goals, including reducing poverty and promoting equitable economic growth, consistent with effective safeguards.” (p. 1238)

Compensation for human rights violations

“The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States executive director of each international financial institution to seek to ensure that each such institution responds to the findings and recommendations of its accountability mechanisms by providing just compensation or other appropriate redress to individuals and communities that suffer violations of human rights, including forced displacement, resulting from any loan, grant, strategy or policy of such institution.” (p. 1240)

Reparations for survivors of Chixoy Dam massacres

“The Secretary of the Treasury shall direct the United States executive directors of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to report to the Committees on Appropriations not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter until September 30, 2014, on the steps being taken by such institutions to support implementation of the April 2010 Reparations Plan for Damages Suffered by the Communities Affected by the Construction of the Chixoy Hydroelectric Dam in Guatemala.” (p. 1240)

No support for logging in tropical forests

“The Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall instruct the United States executive director of each international financial institution and the United States representatives to all forest-related multilateral financing mechanisms and processes that it is the policy of the United States to vote against any financing to support or promote the expansion of industrial scale logging or any other industrial scale extractive activity into areas that were primary/intact tropical forest as of December 30, 2013.” (p. 1361)

No support for large dams

“The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States executive director of each international financial institution that it is the policy of the United States to oppose any loan, grant, strategy or policy of such institution to support the construction of any large hydroelectric dam (as defined in “Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-Making,” World Commission on Dams (November 2000)).” (pp.1361f.)