

I would join in the praise that I think is well deserved, commending the committee for what it has accomplished within a 302(b) allocation that is far too small, given the immense task that they have been assigned.

There is truly no money that is more important for humanitarian and national security purposes than the money that is spent under this bill. For example, 10,000 people per day needlessly die from waterborne diseases. That is why I am pleased that the chairman mentioned the funding for Water For the Poor, the \$970 million 3-year program to finish our commitment that was launched at the United Nations Environmental Summit in Johannesburg.

I note the report language on Urban Programs that is to be found on page 21 where it is pointed out that massive urbanization occurring throughout the developing world is a significant problem. It has been identified by the CIA as one of the seven top threats to American security. The committee is suggesting the USAID focus on urban issues appears to be diminishing as the urban-specific problems are accelerating and seeks to have a report on this issue.

This is critically important, and very necessary at this point.

I would also urge continued oversight on the part of this subcommittee about the balance of aid between Iraq and Afghanistan. We have already spent 10 times as much on development assistance for Iraq, a smaller, richer and less seriously damaged country than Afghanistan, where, after all, the 9/11 attacks were launched and where we are now seeing over two-thirds of the global illicit heroine production.

I am hopeful that the subcommittee can use its oversight power to deal with the correction of that imbalance toward this needy country.