

*Note: This letter was submitted to the New York Times but not published.*

The blast from the population bomb may be smaller (&quot; [Demographic &#39;Bomb&#39; May Only Go &#39;Pop!](#) &quot; N

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) but the related explosion of the world's cities (&quot;

[A Greener Globe, Maybe](#)

&quot;

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) is getting bigger and more threatening. By 2015, Jakarta, Karachi, Lagos, Mumbai (formerly Bombay) and Shanghai will all be bigger than New York. More people will live in megacities of 10 million or more than now live in the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

In its *Global Trends 2015* Report, the CIA ranked urbanization as one of its top seven security concerns, concluding "Cities will be sources of crime and instability as ethnic and religious differences exacerbate the competition for ever scarcer jobs and resources."

But instead of increasing our commitment to stable, livable, urban world, funding for USAID Urban Programs has dropped from a pathetic \$8 million to a ridiculous \$2.35 million. Congress needs to act to reverse this trend. Americans' security at home requires livable cities abroad. Investing the equivalent of a few cruise missiles to help emerging countries deal with sprawl and transportation will pay global dividends for years to come.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress