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ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP



JOHN CULBERSON
7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1728 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4307
202.225.2571
FAX 202.225.4381

DISTRICT OFFICE:
10000 MEMORIAL DRIVE, SUITE 620
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024-3490
713.682.8828
FAX: 713.680.8070

INTERNET:
WWW.CULBERSON.HOUSE.GOV

April 8, 2005

The Honorable Jim Kolbe
Chairman, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs
Appropriations
HB-26, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515-6021

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related
Programs Appropriations
HB-26, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515-6021

Dear Chairman Kolbe and Ranking Member Lowey:

I am respectfully requesting \$15 million for rural water and sanitation in east Africa in the FY2006 Foreign Operations bill. Specifically, I would like to request \$3.5 million for Ethiopia, \$2 million for Kenya, \$2 million for Mozambique, and \$1.5 million for Malawi.

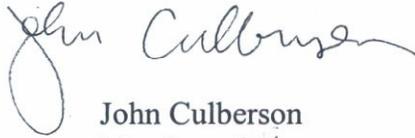
The United States is committed to halting the rapid spread of HIV in Africa and treating those who are currently infected. Clean water is an essential ingredient in preventing the spread of many illnesses and treatment of those suffering with AIDS. Without it, weakened immune systems quickly fall victim to water-borne microbes and pathogens. Over 300 million people in Africa, most in rural areas, still do not have access to a safe water supply and adequate sanitation, and almost half of all Africans suffer from water and sanitation-related diseases.

Unfortunately, USAID is currently directing few resources to improve the water situation, especially in rural areas of east Africa. Building basic facilities for water provision and sanitation will make a profound difference especially in rural areas where clean water is lacking. For the small expense of drilling a well and ensuring its maintenance, local people will enjoy a healthier, longer life. It will also free the labor of those who must travel miles for clean water, usually women and children. By appropriating this money through U.S. non-profit organizations, such as the Millennium Water Alliance (MWA), Congress will minimize losses due to corruption and waste, magnify the good works and charity of the United States and its citizens, and leverage additional funds through the private sector.

I believe that organizations such as the MWA can effectively use the funding in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, and Malawi to continue further phases of effective demonstration projects.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Culberson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John Culberson
Member of Congress