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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 18, 2010

Dear Friends

Thank you for inviting me to join you today. While my schedule prevents me from being here in person, I would like to take this opportunity to share my greetings and thoughts concerning the ongoing conflict in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia.

The situation on the Horn of Africa demands increased action from the international community. Hundreds of thousands of civilians, including those living in the Ogaden, have found themselves caught directly in the middle of the region's violence. The on-going fighting highlights the need for a comprehensive policy to stabilize the area. Our priority must be to bring about an end to the violence and provide humanitarian assistance to the people of the region.

This spring, I signed three letters urging President Obama and the Congress to support a robust international affairs budget in Fiscal Year 2011. As you may know, in the President's budget request to Congress this year, Ethiopia is tenth among the nations to receive the most U.S. development support. This funding is essential to achieving peace and stability in the region, so it is important that this funding remain strong.

I continue to support a reconciliation process that will bring peace and stability to Somalia, and I believe strongly that the United States must do all it can to assist in that process. Stabilizing Somalia is essential not only to the country itself, and to the region, but also to our Somali community here in Minnesota. Minnesota is home to the largest Somali population in the United States. Every year, I meet regularly with leaders of the Somali community, and I am always grateful for their support and advice on this and related issues. I want you to know that I continue to monitor the events in East Africa and press the United States to remain a firm supporter of peace and justice in the region.

It is an honor for me to serve as the Senator for Minnesota. I continue to value your knowledge and insights, and I look forward to continue dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,  


Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate