

MIKE CASTLE
FOR
C O N G R E S S

July 30, 2008

Ms. Deborah Derrick
Congressional Candidate Survey
Better World Campaign
1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Deborah:

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to share my support for the United Nations and the role of the United States in this important organization. I have tried to incorporate my record of support for the U.N. within the context of this questionnaire, as provided by the United Nations Association of the USA Better World Campaign.

I feel strongly that U.S. participation in the United Nations benefits our citizenry, our government, and our relationships worldwide. The U.N. provides nations with a forum for international discussions of global issues and continues to peacefully intervene in dangerous areas around the world in attempts to reduce violence and negotiate disputes in ways that one nation alone could never address.

As a strong supporter of the Iraq Study Group's recommendations, I have been a leading advocate for expanding our American diplomatic efforts in the Middle East. I believe our active participation in the U.N. is crucial to advancing these diplomatic goals and am hopeful that we can also work together to engage Iraq and its neighbors in a robust diplomatic initiative to achieve peace and stability in the region. Additionally, as the world confronts the threat of international terrorism, it is vital that the U.N. continue play a leading role in recognizing instability and leading peacekeeping operations in volatile places like Darfur, Lebanon, Haiti, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Challenges like global poverty and climate change are real, affecting millions of individuals around the world - and the international community must work together under the framework of the U.N. to address these critical matters. One of the major issues the world community can work together to confront is preventing and treating HIV/AIDS. A recent House bill I supported seeks to expand the president's global HIV and AIDS initiative. This bill, which recently became law, provides authority under which U.S. foreign aid can be used to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, authorizing \$50 billion over five years for this assistance.

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Previously, on June 17, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives debated H.R. 2745, the Henry Hyde United Nations Reform Act, which called for the U.S. to withhold assessed dues from the U.N. I believe that withholding dues from the U.N. could derail our international and global commitments, devastating poor nations around the world and reduce our global leadership efforts. Constructive U.S. participation in the U.N. is vital, and for this reason I voted against this bill when it passed in the House by a vote of 221-184 in 2005.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to share my views on the importance of U.S. participation in the U.N. Be assured that I will continue to support the U.N. and efforts to work with the international community to end suffering and reduce violence around the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael N. Castle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Michael N. Castle
Member of Congress