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June 12, 2007

Ambassador Robert Zoellick
Nominee to the Presidency of the World Bank
c/o Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Ambassador Zoellick:

I would like to congratulate you on your nomination to the presidency of the World Bank. Like many of my colleagues in Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, I feel your presence at the Bank will provide the strong, steady and determined leadership needed to confront global poverty and create opportunities for sustainable development in the critical years ahead.

For the past three years I have had the opportunity to participate as a member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB), a group of more than 1,000 parliamentarians from over 100 countries dedicated to working with the Bank to ensure dialogue, accountability and transparency. As elected parliamentarians from donor and recipient countries, PNoWB members are committed to working collaboratively to achieve the Bank's mission to the benefit of our respective governments and the citizens we serve.

Ambassador Zoellick, this past weekend I had the honor of being elected by PNoWB's Board of Directors to serve as its new Board Chair, succeeding the Dutch M.P, Hon. Bert Koenders, who has been appointed his country's Minister for Development Cooperation. In the past, PNoWB has had an open and positive relationship with Presidents Wolfensohn and Wolfowitz. Both attended and addressed PNoWB's past five annual conferences, including the most recent conference held in Cape Town last March. As Chair, I look forward to establishing a similarly open and fruitful relationship with you that will allow the voices of parliamentarians to be heard by Bank leadership.

On behalf of PNoWB, I would like to extend our Board's best wishes for success as you assume this vital global leadership role. As you define your vision and goals for leading the World Bank, I hope we have the opportunity to discuss the valuable expertise and experience parliamentarians can contribute to accomplishing the Bank's important mission.

Sincerely,

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress