

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2804**

September 21, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C., 20520

The Honorable Steve Mnuchin  
Secretary  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Mnuchin:

I write to raise significant concerns on the plan to halt U.S. foreign assistance to Ethiopia and the mediation efforts from the Administration regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). I urge you to remain neutral during the country's negotiating process regarding GERD and to promote stability and better dialogue among the countries in the region.

You may recall the March 4, 2020 Ways and Means hearing with Secretary Mnuchin, in which I raised conflicting reports on bilateral meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Water Resources of Egypt and Sudan. I have been following the issue closely, and it is my understanding that the filling and operation of the GERD is crucial to the regional stability and of great importance to the people of Ethiopia. Moreover, cuts to foreign aid could potentially impact the country's negotiations with Egypt and Sudan.

The concept of the Ethiopian dam dates back to the 1960's, but the country was not able to break ground until 2011. Through small individual donations, the Ethiopian people were able to raise \$4.6 billion for the project. Making the massive infrastructure project an important point of patriotism to Ethiopian citizens.

However, plans to halt U.S. foreign assistance to Ethiopia proceeds could affect up to nearly \$130 million in U.S. foreign assistance to the region. "Programs that will be affected by this plan include security assistance, counterterrorism and military education and training, anti-human trafficking programs, and broader development assistance funding."<sup>1</sup> According to State

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<sup>1</sup> Haverty, Ashford, Kroenig, Hirsh, Ganguly, & O'Donnell et al. (2020). U.S. Halts Some Foreign Assistance Funding to Ethiopia Over Dam Dispute with Egypt, Sudan. Retrieved 28 August 2020, from <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/08/27/trump-africa-gerd-dam-us-halts-foreign-assistance-funding-ethiopia-over-dam-dispute-egypt-sudan/>

Department data, in fiscal year 2019 “the United States provided a total of \$824.3 million in assistance to Ethiopia, of which \$497.3 million was humanitarian aid.”<sup>2</sup>

I believe any cuts to foreign assistance to the region will have a negative impact on the Ethiopian community, and that is why I am asking you to reconsider any plans to halt foreign assistance. I am ready to continue working with you to support any efforts to continue a long-standing relationship with Ethiopia. I look forward to continued discussions on this issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Horsford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Horsford" clearly legible.

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Steven A. Horsford  
Member of Congress

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress