



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

April 8, 2011

The Honorable Barney Frank
Ranking Member
Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Frank:

Thank you for bringing to my attention the Financial Services Committee's amendment related to the multilateral development banks. I very much share your concern about the incidents of human rights abuses, including persecutions based on religion and sexual orientation.

I want to assure you that we will continue to use our voice and influence in the MDBs, as well as engage with our colleagues at the State Department and other agencies, to seek improvements in the human rights situation in these countries. The Treasury Department will continue to instruct the U.S. Executive Directors at each of the MDBs to seek to channel MDB resources away from those countries whose governments engage in a pattern of gross violations of human rights and, more generally, to continue to advocate for upholding human rights in all countries in which the MDBs operate.

I appreciate your recognition of the important voice that we have in these institutions and, in turn, the importance of the MDBs themselves as a force for positive change in the developing world. As you noted, we have very consequential funding requests for the MDBs before Congress this year, which will directly determine our ability to maintain a strong and influential voice in all of these institutions in the years ahead. I am deeply committed to ensuring continued U.S. leadership in the MDBs, and I look forward to working with you on these requests and in pursuit of the very important policy objectives that the MDBs can help make possible.

Sincerely,

Timothy F. Geithner

Identical letter sent to:
The Honorable Spencer Bachus

cc: Mr. Ian Solomon
Mr. Robert M. Orr
Mr. Walter Jones
Mr. Gustavo Arnavat
Mr. James Hudson