



August 20, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the business voice of the nation's engineering industry, we appreciate your many decades of support for America's engineering industry with your support for physical infrastructure projects representing Florida in Congress and in the Florida legislature.

We write to express our concern regarding the recent outcomes of the Foreign Assistance Review and the resulting reduction in Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compacts and threshold programs. As you are aware, MCC has long been a model of bipartisan success in foreign assistance—its data-driven, transparent, and results-oriented approach has not only advanced poverty reduction and good governance abroad but has also created meaningful opportunities for American engineering firms to contribute their expertise to infrastructure development, energy modernization, and economic growth initiatives in partner countries.

The decision to terminate half of MCC's active programs—including the Zambia and Indonesia Compacts and the Philippines and Kenya Threshold Programs—represents a significant setback for U.S. engineering businesses. These compacts have historically enabled firms to engage in high-impact projects that align with American values and standards, while also competing directly with global initiatives such as China's Belt and Road. The reduction in MCC's footprint undermines our ability to maintain strategic influence and economic leadership in key regions, which in turn impacts the ability of American businesses to succeed in these geographies.

We urge the State Department to reconsider the scale of these reductions and to reaffirm its commitment to MCC's mission and model. Preserving MCC's dealmaking capability, as a foreign investment tool – not aid, is essential to ensuring that American firms remain engaged and competitive in global development.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We stand ready to support efforts that strengthen MCC's role in advancing U.S. foreign policy and economic interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda Bauer Darr".

Linda Bauer Darr
President and CEO
American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)

cc:

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Vice Chair - Millennium Challenge Corporation
USTR Ambassador Jamieson Greer, Board Member - Millennium Challenge Corporation

Mr. Luke Reynolds, Millennium Challenge Corporation Liaison
Dr. Sohan Dasgupta, Millennium Challenge Corporation