

RAND PAUL
KENTUCKY

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1704

April 11, 2013

Mr. Jason Olshefsky
45 Whiteford Rd
Rochester, New York 14620

Dear Mr. Olshefsky,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding intervention by the United States in conflicts across the globe. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this issue.

Our government has spent the past few decades policing the world, trying in vain to build nations after destroying them, and all the while bankrupting our children and grandchildren in the process. The United States is good at promoting freedom, encouraging trade and inviting those willing to participate in peace and benefit from its prosperity, but we can no longer afford to be the world's policemen.

I can sympathize with people who are fighting to overthrow tyrannical regimes, but I do not believe the United States can be the world's policemen. One of the most important votes a Senator could take is on the declaration of war to send our men and women of the Armed Forces into battle. I believe we should only go to war when it is in our national interest based upon an actual or imminent threat to the United States.

One of the most significant issues facing the United States Senate is foreign policy. Despite billions of dollars spent in attempts to prop up economically weak countries, U.S. foreign aid has had almost an opposite effect. In the 1990s, a Clinton Administration task force found that despite decades of foreign assistance, most of Africa, and parts of Latin America, Asia and the Middle East are economically worse off today than they were 20 years ago.

Instead of reaching the people who need it, foreign aid has increased the size of foreign governments rather than benefit the welfare of the people. Aid that should be focused toward investment and growth are typically funneled into consumption. There is no evidence that aiding developing or struggling nations produces rapid and widespread economic reforms that spur growth.

Rest assured as issues concerning foreign intervention continue to be debated in the Senate, I will keep your thoughts in mind.

Sincerely,



Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senator