

JOHN F. KERRY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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May 20, 1992

Mr. John E. Flynn
Office of the City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Flynn:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for legislation amending current budget law to remove the spending walls that exist between the spending categories of defense, domestic and international spending programs.

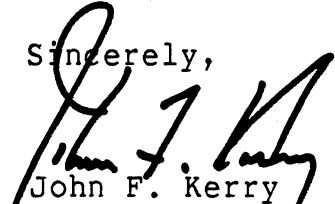
I am an original cosponsor of the Senate bill, S. 2250 -- the Appropriations Category Reform Act of 1992 -- introduced by Budget Committee Chairman James Sasser. While I strongly support efforts to reduce the federal deficit because of its corrosive effect on vital federal programs, I nonetheless believe the so-called firewalls between defense and domestic spending must be removed in order to permit savings derived from the defense budget to be used for domestic programs whose help is desperately needed as much of the nation -- and Massachusetts in particular -- contends with a serious recession.

As you may know, the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 set up three discretionary spending categories -- international, domestic, and defense -- and prohibited the use of savings from one category for programs contained in another until fiscal year 1994. In 1994 the three categories will be joined together as one.

Unfortunately, the Senate voted 50-48 not to invoke cloture on Senator Sasser's bill. Therefore the measure has received no further debate. With the walls remaining, scarce resources will mean that virtually all domestic programs will be required to tighten their belts.

Thanks again for taking the time to share your views with me. I hope you will continue to do so.

Sincerely,


John F. Kerry
United States Senator

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CONSENT COMMUNICATION #3

S-454

Communication from John F. Kerry, Senator,
in acknowledgement of a resolutions adopted
by the City Council regarding Senate Bill
S.2250, the Appropriations Category
Reform Act of 1992.

In City Council,

June 1, 1992

Placed on file