

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 16, 2005

The Honorable Idriss Déby
President, Republic of Chad
c/o Embassy of the Republic of Chad
2002 R Street, NW 20009

Dear President Déby:

We are writing to express our concern that the Government of Chad is in the process of abandoning essential components of the international agreement regulating the Chad-Cameroon pipeline project.

Mr. President, we have taken a strong interest in this project. In 2002, the Subcommittee on Africa held a congressional hearing entitled, "The Chad-Cameroon Pipeline: A New Model for Natural Resource Development." Earlier this year, we had the opportunity to visit Chad and inspect the pipeline. We join with many in the U.S Congress in viewing this effort as an important opportunity for Africa --a chance to harness the natural resources of a developing country, while ensuring that the needs of its citizens are advanced. Significantly, the Chad-Cameroon pipeline project is to be a model development project, to the credit of your Government and its other partners.

Many of us therefore have been watching the project with growing concern that it will fail to meet its objectives. Reports that the Government of Chad is moving to amend the Petroleum Revenue Management Law, including abolishing the Future Generations Fund and altering the priority sectors designation, are a grave concern. We appreciate that the Government of Chad is confronting a number of pressing challenges, including the refugee crisis in eastern Chad. Nevertheless, we urge you to reconsider any decision to alter the resource allocation or other elements of the pipeline project's charter. The integrity of this international undertaking is at risk. Thank you for your attention to our concern.

Sincerely,



EDWARD R. ROYCE



BETTY McCOLLUM



JIM McDERMOTT



DIANE E. WATSON