

USAID: A Catalyst for Arizona's Growth & Global Engagement. Letter to the Editor by Michael Doubleday, West Side, *Arizona Daily Star*, 20 Feb 2025

Elon Musk's recent unfounded critiques of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are both misleading and detrimental to Arizona's economic and humanitarian interests. Operating on less than 1% of the federal budget, USAID has been instrumental in fostering global stability, which, in turn, opens new markets for Arizona's diverse industries, including aerospace and agriculture. The agency's initiatives have facilitated international partnerships, leading to job creation and economic growth within our state.

Furthermore, USAID's collaborations with Arizona's research institutions have advanced innovations in water management and sustainable agriculture, addressing both local and global challenges. Undermining such an agency based on misinformation not only threatens global development efforts but also jeopardizes Arizona's economic vitality and leadership in innovation. It is crucial that we, as Arizonans, stand in support of USAID, recognizing its significant contributions to our state's prosperity and the promotion of global well-being.