"For six decades, USAID represented the best of American leadership abroad." quote from Rep. Walkinshaw upon entering into the Congressional Record the Nomination of USAID for the Nobel Peace Prize

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HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW OF VIRGINIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nomination of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the Nobel Peace Prize by former Liberian President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

For more than six decades, USAID represented the best of American leadership abroad. Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, the agency helped prevent famine, combat infectious diseases, strengthen democratic institutions, and rebuild communities devastated by war and natural disasters. Its work saved millions of lives and advanced the cause of peace around the world.

President Sirleaf knows the importance of that work firsthand. As Liberia emerged from a devastating civil war, USAID helped restore essential services, rebuild democratic institutions, and support the country's recovery. During the Ebola epidemic, USAID helped Liberia confront another national emergency by coordinating response and relief efforts. In her nomination, President Sirleaf describes the agency's contributions to her country's recovery and to international development over more than six decades.

USAID's accomplishments extend far beyond Liberia. The agency played an essential role in the global campaign to eradicate smallpox, the Green Revolution that dramatically expanded agricultural production, and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which has saved millions of lives. Through Food for Peace and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, USAID helped prevent humanitarian catastrophes before they occurred. Its investments in education, women's economic empowerment, and democratic governance strengthened societies and addressed the root causes of conditions that can contribute to conflict.

These achievements were made possible by generations of dedicated public servants, including thousands of Americans from Northern Virginia who devoted their careers to advancing our country's humanitarian and national security interests.

This nomination comes at a consequential moment. The Trump administration's dismantling of USAID has disrupted lifesaving programs, undermined decades of American investments, and weakened our nation's ability to respond to humanitarian crises. The

consequences will be felt by vulnerable communities around the world and by the United States, which has long understood that preventing instability abroad is essential to our security at home.

The Nobel Peace Prize recognizes those who advance peace among nations. USAID's history demonstrates that peace is not achieved through diplomacy alone. It is also advanced when children survive preventable diseases, families have enough to eat, democratic institutions take root, and communities recover from conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I commend President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for nominating USAID for the Nobel Peace Prize. I also recognize the generations of USAID employees and humanitarian partners whose service made this nomination possible. Their work represents an extraordinary American contribution to the cause of peace, and their legacy deserves to be preserved and honored.