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Center for International Trade and
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Center for Science and Global Security,
Princeton University
Center for Strategic and International
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Citizens to Stop Nuclear Terrorism
Connect U.S. Fund
Council for a Livable World
Federation of American Scientists
FirstWatch International
Friends Committee on National
Legislation
Fund for Peace
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The Henry L. Stimson Center
The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public
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Monterey Institute of International Studies
National Security Network
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nuclear Threat Initiative
Partnership for Global Security
Partnership for a Secure America
Peace Action
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Project on Government Oversight
Project on Managing the Atom,
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International Trade and Security
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Nonproliferation Studies
Jennifer Smyser, The Stanley Foundation
Sharon Squassoni, Center for Strategic
and International Studies
Paul Walker, Global Green USA

Dear Senator,

We urge the Senate to reverse the cuts to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) nuclear nonproliferation budget that were made by the House of Representatives in its new continuing resolution (CR). That bill cuts critical nuclear terrorism prevention programs by 22% (more than \$600 million) below the Fiscal Year 2011 request. These programs are vital to reducing the risk of nuclear terrorism.

If approved, these budget cuts will weaken the first line of defense against the nuclear terrorist threat. They will affect crucial efforts to remove weapon-usable uranium in key locations. And, they will significantly limit the ability of the U.S. and its partners to achieve their goal of securing or removing vulnerable nuclear materials around the globe at an accelerated rate.

In testimony this month, General James Clapper the Director of National Intelligence stated that, "the time when only a few states had access to the most dangerous technologies is well past... Some terror groups remain interested in acquiring CBRN [chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological] materials and threaten to use them. Poorly secured stocks of CBRN provide potential source material for terror attacks."

Bipartisan reports and blue ribbon commissions have stated that limiting access to vulnerable nuclear weapons-usable materials will greatly reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism. They further warned that more – not less - needs to be done to ensure that terrorists and non-state actors never obtain a nuclear weapon or materials usable for a nuclear device. The global financial cost and terrible destruction of a nuclear terrorist attack would dwarf the costs of preventing such an attack.

We urge you to ensure that threat reduction and nonproliferation programs at NNSA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of State are funded at the FY 2011 requested level for the remainder of the fiscal year. No less than America's national security is at stake.

Failure to correct the shortfalls in the CR would significantly hamper U.S. leadership in the important efforts to secure vulnerable weapons and materials around the world.

The fight against nuclear terrorism is a fight that can and must be won. But the United States will not be able to sustain its leadership and progress on this agenda if Congress does not adequately fund the programs that enabled the successes that have been achieved so far.

Sincerely,

Harry C. Blaney III
Center for International Policy

Barry Blechman
Stimson Center

Danielle Brian
Project On Government Oversight (POGO)

Ambassador (ret) Kenneth C. Brill
The Fund for Peace

Matthew Bunn
Project on Managing the Atom
Harvard Kennedy School of Government

David Culp
Friends Committee on National Legislation

Jenefer Ellingston
National Green Party

Peter Fedewa
Ploughshares Fund

Charles Ferguson
Federation of American Scientists

Robert G. Gard, Jr., Lt. Gen., U.S. Army (Ret.)
Former president of the National Defense
University

Thomas Graham Jr.
Lightbridge Corporation
Ashley Houghton
ReThink Media

Howard Hall
University of Tennessee

John Isaacs
Council for a Livable World

Paul Kawika Martin
Peace Action

Daryl G. Kimball
Arms Control Association

The Honorable Mike Kopetski
Former Member of Congress (5th-OR)

Alan J. Kuperman, Ph.D.
University of Texas at Austin

Kenneth Luongo
Partnership for Global Security

William Potter
Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar Professor
Monterey Institute of International Studies

Jon Rainwater
Peace Action West

Susan Shaer
Women's Action for New Directions

Paul Walker
Global Green USA

Dr. Jim Walsh
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Gerald Warburg
Professor of Public Policy
University of Virginia

Frank von Hippel
Professor of Public and International Affairs
Princeton University