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WOMEN'S ACTION FOR NEW DIRECTIONS

November 29, 2007

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We urge you to delete all funding for the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) from the upcoming omnibus appropriations bill. We support the bipartisan House decision to zero out funding for the new nuclear warhead and hope you will also take this course of action as you draft the Energy and Water portion of the omnibus bill.

We believe it is important to consider the adverse international nonproliferation consequences of proceeding with RRW. Limiting RRW to design and development will still be viewed internationally as the U.S. walking down the path toward new nuclear weapons. If the United States does not appear to be serious about nonproliferation and disarmament, its ability to limit other nations' development of nuclear weapons will erode.

Former Senator Sam Nunn argued this point before Congress earlier this year, stating that proceeding with RRW would undermine U.S. efforts to "prevent the spread and use of nuclear weapons."

If Congress approves funding for the Energy Department to proceed with research and possible development of RRW, many in the international

community will interpret this as another sign that the U.S. is walking away from its nonproliferation obligations, including Article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The 118 countries of the Non-Aligned Movement have already cited development of RRW as contradictory to nuclear disarmament agreements signed by the United States. RRW will complicate efforts to win international support to bolster the beleaguered NPT system.

Furthermore, U.S. funding of RRW will buttress the arguments of nuclear hawks in Russia and China when they argue in favor of nuclear modernization in their respective nations.

The U.S. cannot simultaneously work toward upgrading its nuclear arsenal and successfully convince other nations that it is committed to reducing the role and number of nuclear weapons worldwide.

We urge you to work with your colleagues in Congress to restore U.S. leadership on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament rather than committing funding to this program.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Susan Gordon, Director
Alliance for Nuclear Accountability

Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary
American Friends Service Committee

Amy Isaacs, National Director
Americans for Democratic Action

Terri Lodge, Coordinator
Arms Control Advocacy Collaborative

Daryl G. Kimball, Executive Director
Arms Control Association

Ambassador Robert Grey Jr., Director
Bipartisan Security Group

Steven Monblatt, Co-Executive Director
British American Security Information Council

Rabbi David Saperstein, Co-Director
Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism

T. Michael McNulty, SJ, Justice and Peace Director
Conference of Major Superiors of Men

John Isaacs, Executive Director
Council for a Livable World

Maureen Shea, Director, Office of Government Relations
Episcopal Church, USA

Andrew Genszler, Director for Advocacy
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dr. Henry Kelly, President
Federation of American Scientists

Joe Volk, Executive Secretary
Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quakers)

Paul Walker, Legacy Program Director
Global Green USA

Sister Carole Shinnick, SSND, Executive Director
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Marie Dennis, Director
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach, Director, Washington Office
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.

Jessica Wilbanks, Coordinator
National Religious Partnership on the Nuclear Weapons Danger

Christopher E. Paine, Director, Nuclear Program
Natural Resources Defense Council

Sister Marge Clark, BVM, Lobbyist
NETWORK – a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

David Krieger, President
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Dave Robinson, Executive Director
Pax Christi USA

Kevin Martin, Executive Director
Peace Action

**Michael McCally, M.D., Ph.D., Executive Director
Physicians for Social Responsibility**

**Sara Lisherness, Director, Peace and Justice Ministries
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

**Kevin Knobloch, President
Union of Concerned Scientists**

**Rob Keithan, Director, Washington Office for Advocacy
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations**

**James E. Winkler, General Secretary
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society**

**Susan Shaer, Executive Director
Women's Action for New Directions**