

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 6, 2010

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
361-A Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell and Senator Reid:

We are writing to urge the Senate to ratify the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) before the close of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. The benefits of ratifying New START are clear. It is unanimously supported by our military leadership and backed by five former secretaries of defense, six former secretaries of state, and seven former heads of the military nuclear command.

- The treaty's limits of 1,550 deployed warheads and 700 deployed delivery vehicles will reduce the Russian nuclear threat, while allowing us to maintain a robust and modern nuclear triad.
- The treaty will enable us to "Trust, but verify", as Ronald Reagan said. New START would establish an updated information exchange system and enhanced on-site inspections that would provide more information on the status of Russian strategic forces than was available under the original START accord. Ratification of New START is the only way to end the "verification gap" that has emerged since START I expired last year.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has stated: "Without ratification...we put at risk the coalition that we have built to put pressure on Iran, and the transit route through Russia that we use to equip our troops in Afghanistan. And without ratification, we risk undoing decades of American leadership on nuclear security, and decades of bipartisanship on this issue. Our security and our position in the world are at stake."

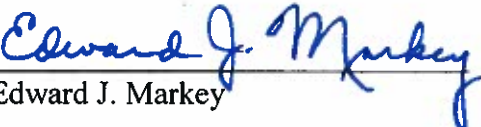
Our NATO allies, including those bordering Russia, recently voiced their strong support for swift ratification of New START. NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said on Nov. 19: "A delay in the ratification of the treaty would be damaging to security in Europe."

To ensure that the United States' remaining nuclear weapons and delivery systems are modern, reliable, and effective, the Administration has proposed spending over \$180 billion in the next decade. This includes \$85 billion to upgrade the nation's nuclear weapons complex and extend the lives of existing types of nuclear weapons over the next decade. Another \$100 billion will be spent to modernize the strategic missiles and bombers that carry these weapons.


**Letter Urging Senate to Ratify New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty**

According to our nation's military and intelligence leadership and most prominent former senior national security officials from Republican and Democratic administrations, New START is a no-brainer. They support it because it will make the U.S. safer. We respectfully urge the Senate to schedule time to debate and vote to provide its advice and consent for ratification of New START without delay.

Sincerely,

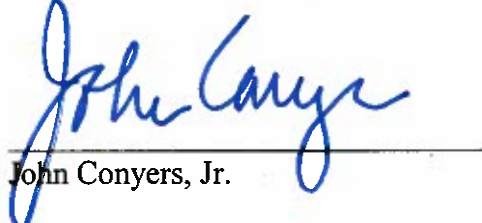
  
Edward J. Markey

  
Shelley Berkley

  
Howard L. Berman

  
Lois Capps

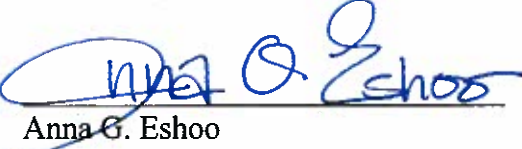
  
Russ Carnahan

  
John Conyers, Jr.

  
Bill Delahunt

  
Theodore E. Deutch

  
Eliot L. Engel

  
Anna G. Eshoo

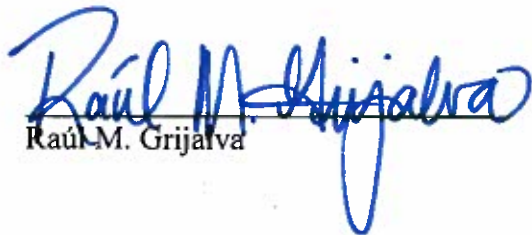
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Sam Farr



Barney Frank



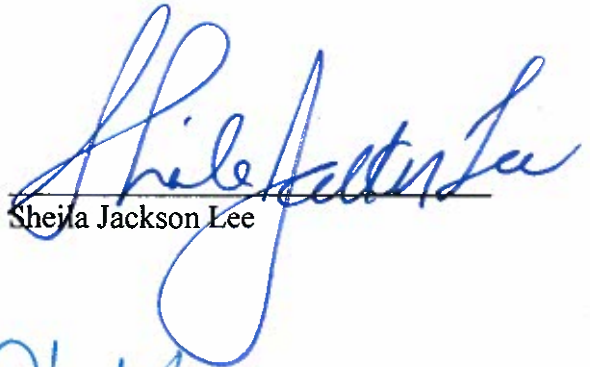
Raúl M. Grijalva



Jane Harman



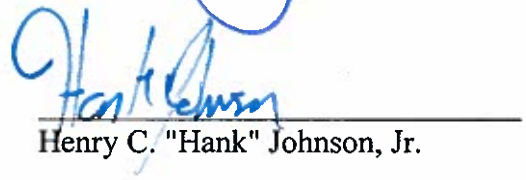
Michael M. Honda



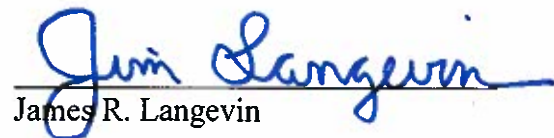
Sheila Jackson Lee



Eddie Bernice Johnson



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.



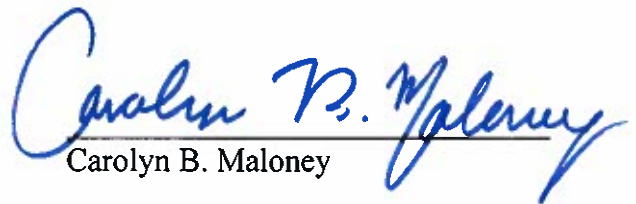
James R. Langevin



Rick Larsen

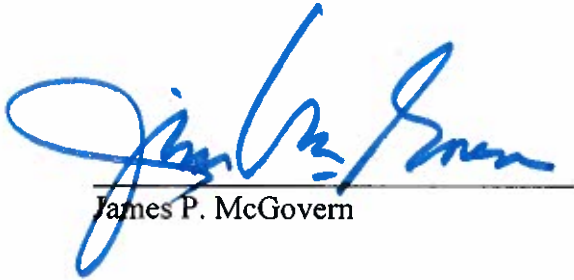


John Lewis



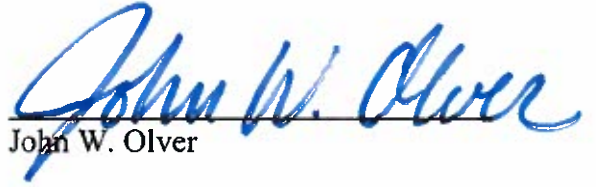
Carolyn B. Maloney

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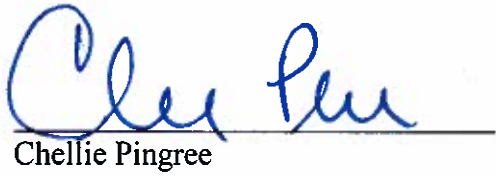
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James P. McGovern



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John W. Olver



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Chellie Pingree



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David E. Price



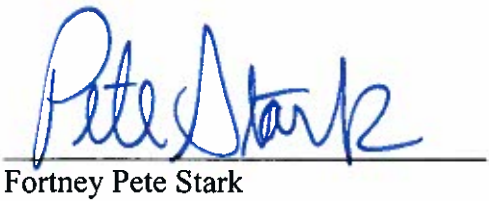
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Linda T. Sánchez



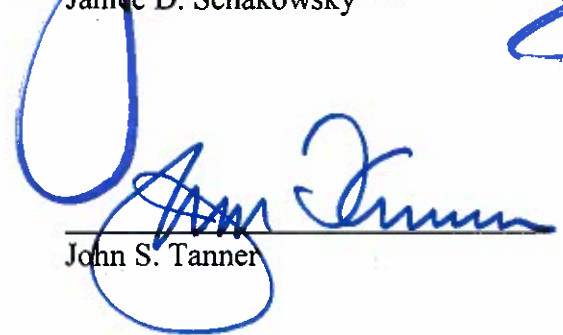
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Janice D. Schakowsky



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Fortney Pete Stark



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John S. Tanner



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Edolphus Towns



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Niki Tsongas

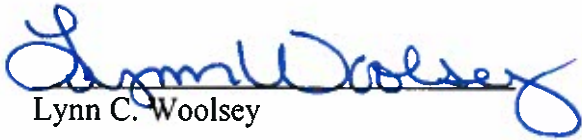
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Melvin L. Watt



Peter Welch



Lynn C. Woolsey