

July 24, 2008

The Hon. Howard L. Berman, Chair  
House Foreign Affairs Committee  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ranking Member  
House Foreign Affairs Committee  
B360 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Berman and Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen,

We are writing to urge you to immediately take up H.Res. 1045—the Global Security Priorities Resolution—in the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC), and call for your support of the bill’s passage before Congress adjourns in August.

Introduced by Reps. McGovern (D-MA) and Lungren (R-CA), this bipartisan legislation is also cosponsored by 11 members of HFAC, from both parties. H.Res. 1045 urges the President to take steps to reduce the number of U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons. Savings from these reductions would be used to support essential nuclear nonproliferation programs to prevent the spread of dangerous weapons and technologies to other nations and terrorists, and for critical child survival, hunger, and education programs around the world that help address the root causes of terrorism.

Expediently reporting this resolution out of HFAC will create momentum and make more members of the 110th Congress aware of the dangers of nuclear weapons. It will also demonstrate the Committee's commitment to the bipartisan vision set forth by former Secretaries of State George Shultz and Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of Defense William Perry, and former Senator Sam Nunn that the United States should embrace the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and that “practical measures toward achieving that goal would be, and would be perceived as, a bold initiative consistent with America's moral heritage.”

These vast stockpiles of nuclear weapons remain one of the gravest threats to global security, and to that of our families and future generations. This legislation can play a valuable role in bringing Democrats and Republicans together to set the stage for bold, urgent action, ultimately leading toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Culp, Legislative Representative  
Friends Committee on National Legislation

Susan Gordon, Director  
Alliance for Nuclear Accountability

Marie Dennis, Director  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Ambassador (ret.) Robert T. Grey Jr., Director  
Bipartisan Security Group

Dennis Frado, Director  
Lutheran Office for World Community  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Lisbeth Gronlund, Ph.D., Co-Director  
Global Security Program  
Union of Concerned Scientists

Howard W. Hallman, Chair  
Methodists United for Peace with Justice

Evelyn Hanneman, Operations Coordinator  
Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America

John Isaacs, Executive Director  
Center for Arms Control and  
Non-Proliferation

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

Daryl Kimball, Executive Director  
Arms Control Association

David Krieger President  
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Marie Lucey, OSF  
Associate Director for Social Mission  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Kevin Martin, Executive Director  
Peace Action

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

David A. Robinson, Executive Director  
Pax Christi USA: National Catholic Peace  
Movement

Rabbi David Saperstein, Director  
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

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

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

Maureen Shea, Director  
Office of Government Relations  
The Episcopal Church

Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, National Director  
Islamic Society of North America

Paul F. Walker, Ph.D.  
Legacy Program Director  
Global Green USA (The US affiliate of Green  
Cross International, Mikhail Gorbachev,  
Founding Chairman)

Tyler Wigg-Stevenson, Policy Director  
Faithful Security: The National Religious  
Partnership on the Nuclear Weapons Danger

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

cc: The Honorable Daniel E. Lungren  
The Honorable James McGovern