

September 16, 2019

The Honorable Jack Reed
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed,

As leaders of organizations representing millions of Americans, and as experts with decades of experience in U.S. defense and security policy, we call on you to support the House decision to prevent deployment of the Trump administration's unneeded and dangerous W76-2 nuclear warhead as you finalize the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

As you know, the House legislation eliminates the \$19.6 million in Navy funding for W76-2 deployment. By a vote of [201-221](#) on the floor, the House resoundingly defeated an attempt to restore that funding. A similar effort on the Fiscal Year 2020 Defense Appropriations bill was defeated even more soundly, by a vote of [192-236](#). In short, the House of Representatives has repeatedly expressed their opposition, through multiple floor votes, to this warhead.

In addition, while the Senate did not vote on the W76-2, 18 Senate Democrats—a sizable portion of the Democratic caucus—sent you a [letter](#) calling on you to support the House position in opposition to the W76-2.

Furthermore, we hope you saw the [letter](#) from more than 30 former senior officials, including former defense secretary William Perry and former secretary of state George Shultz, recommending that Congress reject the W76-2 because the weapon is “a gateway to nuclear catastrophe and should not be pursued.”

As was emphasized repeatedly in the House debate, it is illogical and dangerous to use the weapon that is the foundation of our strategic nuclear deterrent in a tactical manner. It needlessly puts that invaluable resource at risk. Congress should reject deployment of the W76-2, and we call on you to do everything in your power to achieve that outcome.

Sincerely,

Andrew Albertson, Executive Director
Foreign Policy for America

Alexandra Bell
Former senior advisor in the Office of the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security

Dr. Joe Berkson
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility

Carly Brooks, Coordinator
Washington Against Nuclear Weapons Coalition

Ambassador (ret) Susan F. Burk
Former special representative of the president for nuclear nonproliferation

Jay Coghlan, Executive Director
Nuclear Watch New Mexico

Tom Z. Collina, Policy Director
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Tom Countryman
Former acting undersecretary of state for Arms Control and International Security

Philip E. Coyle, III
Former associate director for national security and international affairs, Office of Science and Technology Policy, The White House

Caroline Dorminey, Policy Director
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Tom Ferguson, President
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Lt. General (USA, Ret.) Robert G. Gard, Jr.
Former President, National Defense University

Joyce Hall, Coordinator
Pax Christi Dallas

Don Hancock, Administrator
Southwest Research and Information Center
Albuquerque, NM

Gary Hart
Former U.S. Senator (Ret.), 1975-1987

Heidi Hess and Josh Nelson, Co-Directors
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Newell Highsmith
Former deputy legal adviser, Department of State

Ambassador (ret) Bonnie Jenkins, Founder and Executive Director, Women of Color
Advancing Peace, Security and Conflict Transformation
*Former ambassador, special envoy and coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs in
the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, State Department*

Derek Johnson, Executive Director
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Marylia Kelley, Executive Director
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Ambassador (ret) Laura E. Kennedy
Former U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament

Daryl Kimball, Executive Director
Arms Control Association

John LaForge, Co-director
Nukewatch, Wisconsin

Paul Kawika Martin, Senior Director, Policy and Political Affairs
Peace Action

Stephen Miles, Executive Director
Win Without War

Robert K. Musil, President & CEO
Rachel Carson Council

Richard Nephew
Former principal deputy coordinator for sanctions policy, Department of State

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*Former special assistant to the president and senior director, National Security
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John Tierney, Executive Director
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Former member, U.S. House of Representatives, 1997-2015

Ellen Thomas, Coordinator
Proposition One Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Future

Cecili Thompson Williams, Director
Beyond the Bomb

Mark Udall
Former member, U.S. House of Representatives, 1998-2008, U.S. Senator, 2009-2015

Frank N. von Hippel
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Anthony Weir, Legislative Secretary, Nuclear Disarmament and Pentagon Spending
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Jon Wolfsthal
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