

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our support for your Administration's ongoing efforts to negotiate a new treaty with Russia to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). The successful negotiation of an arms reduction treaty with Russia lays the groundwork for future cooperation between our nations. Furthermore, successful negotiation of such a treaty is vital in advancing support for a broader international nuclear nonproliferation initiative.

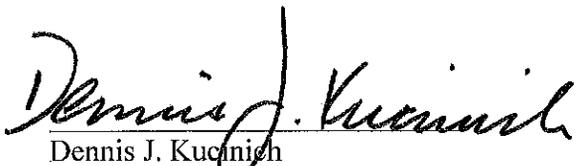
We applaud the considerable measures your Administration has taken to engage with Russia to replace START since its expiration at the end of 2009. As you know, START served as a significant trust-building measure between the U.S. and Russia. Similarly, the successful negotiation of a new arms control treaty significantly boosts the ability of our nations to cooperate in the future. The negotiations for this treaty have been made possible by an unprecedented personal commitment to negotiating the reduction of each nation's respective nuclear arsenals from you and President Medvedev.

The July 2009 Joint Understanding you signed with President Medvedev in Moscow that committed both countries to reducing nuclear warheads to under 2,000 each is a significant step in the eventual eradication of nuclear weapons. As two countries that hold a significant percentage of the world's nuclear weapons, the signing of a replacement to START prior to the World Nuclear Summit scheduled for April will send a clear signal of intent to follow the track to disarmament.

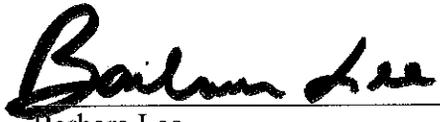
We applaud the difficult and significant measures the negotiation teams took to address the security concerns of both the U.S. and Russia; the agreement's language on control and verification measures is particularly valuable. The treaty's well-balanced language will allow for the rapid ratification of the treaty in both countries.

The successful and swift ratification of a replacement to START can serve as a strong starting point for the next stage of negotiations on further nuclear armament reductions. We stand ready to work with you to provide the necessary Congressional support for ratification.

Sincerely,


Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

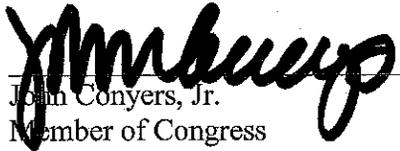

Bob Filner
Member of Congress



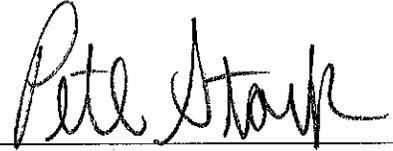
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



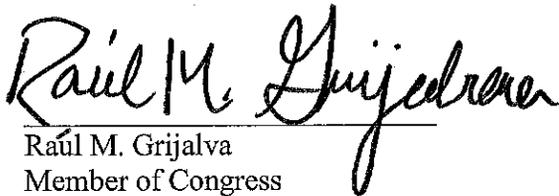
Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Fortney Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress