

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply concerned by recent reports that you are considering a resumption of explosive nuclear testing, something the U.S. has not done since 1992. We urge you in the strongest terms to reject this awful idea both because it is technically unnecessary and because it would represent a dangerous provocation.

The United States long ago replaced explosive nuclear testing with an annual assessment process through the U.S. Department of Energy's Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program (SSMP). These annual assessments rely on science and advanced simulation to rigorously examine each weapon system and ensure they remain safe, secure, and effective. Successive Republican and Democratic administrations have strengthened the SSMP, investing in science-based policy to resolve many stockpile issues. Indeed, many experts have testified that the SSMP has helped us to know far more about nuclear weapons than we ever did in the testing age.

A return to nuclear testing is not only scientifically and technically unnecessary but also dangerously provocative. It would signal to the world that the U.S. no longer has confidence in the safety, security, and effectiveness of our nuclear weapons. It would needlessly antagonize important allies, cause other countries to develop or acquire nuclear weapons, and prompt adversaries to respond in kind—risking a new nuclear arms race and further undermining the global nonproliferation regime. None of these developments would improve America's national security or strengthen its position in the world.

We strongly oppose any resumption of explosive nuclear testing, especially in light of the SSMP's demonstrated track record over the last 20 years. Taking this unnecessary and provocative step would be an abdication of America's scientific leadership and would weaken our ability to make the world a safer place to live. We urge you to remain committed to the SSMP and science-based stockpile stewardship, and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Dan Brouillette, Secretary of Energy
CC: The Honorable Mark Esper, Secretary of Defense

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

Ben Cardin
United States Senator

André Carson
Member of Congress

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Susie Lee
Member of Congress

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

Ben McAdams
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
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C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
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Peter J. Visclosky
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress