

**Organizations Represented**

Arms Control Association  
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists  
Cato Institute  
Center for Arms Control and  
Non-Proliferation  
Center for International Trade and  
Security, University of Georgia  
Center for Science and Global Security,  
Princeton University  
Center for Strategic and International  
Studies  
Connect U.S. Fund  
Council for a Livable World  
Federation of American Scientists  
FirstWatch International  
Friends Committee on National  
Legislation  
Fund for Peace  
Global Green USA  
The Henry L. Stimson Center  
The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public  
Policy, University of Tennessee  
Monterey Institute of International Studies  
National Security Network  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nuclear Threat Initiative  
Partnership for Global Security  
Partnership for a Secure America  
Peace Action  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Project on Government Oversight  
Project on Managing the Atom,  
Harvard University  
ReThink Media  
Security Studies Program, Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology  
The Stanley Foundation  
Union of Concerned Scientists

**Steering Committee**

Kenneth Luongo, Partnership for  
Global Security (co-chair)  
Alexandra Toma, Connect U.S. Fund  
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Matthew Bunn, Harvard University  
Togzhan Kassenova, Center for  
International Trade and Security  
Miles Pomper, James Martin Center for  
Nonproliferation Studies  
Jennifer Smyser, The Stanley Foundation  
Sharon Squassoni, Center for Strategic  
and International Studies  
Benn Tannenbaum, American Association  
for the Advancement of Science  
Elizabeth Turpen, Booz Allen Hamilton  
Paul Walker, Global Green USA

February 7, 2010

Dear Member of Congress,

There is an overwhelming bipartisan consensus that the U.S. needs to lead the world to prevent nuclear terrorism, but the Continuing Resolution (CR) passed in December limits funding for this objective. Recognizing that the mood in Congress is to trim federal spending, we urge you, in the interest of U.S. national security, to support funding for threat reduction and nonproliferation programs at the FY 2011 requested levels in the next continuing resolution (CR) or omnibus appropriations bill. This funding is a necessary step to achieve the cooperative international effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear materials and to keep our nation safe from the threat of nuclear terrorism.

In April 2010, the President convened an unprecedented Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C. during which the leaders of 47 nations pledged their support to secure vulnerable nuclear materials on their soil and to work in tandem to decrease threat levels. Numerous bipartisan reports have outlined the urgency of the danger and warned that more needs to be done to ensure that terrorists and non-state actors never obtain a nuclear weapon or materials usable for a nuclear device.

In FY 2011, the President requested over \$2 billion for international WMD security programs within the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Department of Defense (DoD), and Department of State. A critical piece of this request is a \$320 million increase over the FY 2010 appropriated level that enables NNSA and DoD's Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program to accelerate their efforts to lock down and eliminate nuclear materials around the world. The FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act fully supported this funding.

Additionally last summer, both relevant House and Senate subcommittees decided to fully fund these important programs despite the current economic climate and competing funding demands. Money for these programs was also passed by the House during the lame duck session and in the omnibus bill that died in the Senate.

However, the final CR passed at the end of December 2010 funded most government programs at FY 2010 levels through March 4, 2011, including the programs to secure and safeguard nuclear weapons and materials. This is a significant setback in efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism because the overall funding request and congressional appropriations for threat reduction in FY 2010 are actually less than the amount Congress appropriated in FY 2009.

Failure to correct the shortfalls in the CR would significantly hamper U.S. leadership in the important efforts to secure vulnerable weapons and materials around the world. For example, NNSA's Global Threat Reduction Initiative could face delays in completing critical conversion, removal, and protection activities in Russia, Kazakhstan, South Africa, and Mexico.

Experts agree that limiting access to vulnerable nuclear weapons-usable materials will greatly reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism. The global financial cost and terrible destruction of a nuclear terrorist attack would dwarf the costs of preventing such an attack.

The fight against nuclear terrorism is a fight that can and must be won. At the close of 2010, NNSA announced that 111 pounds of bomb-making highly enriched uranium were removed from three sites in Ukraine. Since April 2009, six countries

have given up all their highly enriched uranium and a total of 120 bombs' worth of nuclear material was secured. But the United States will not be able to sustain this progress if Congress does not adequately fund the programs that made these successes possible.

We urge you to ensure that threat reduction and nonproliferation programs at NNSA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of State are funded at the FY 2011 requested level for the remainder of the fiscal year. No less than America's national security is at stake.

Sincerely,

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Center for International Policy

Barry M. Blechman  
Henry L. Stimson Center

Jack Boureston  
FirstWatch International (FWI)

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Project on Managing the Atom  
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Former president of the National Defense University

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*\* Organization affiliation for identification purposes only*