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

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Ben Cardin
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator
Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

Patty Murray  
United States Senator

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

Brian Schatz  
United States Senator

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Tina Smith  
United States Senator

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

Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Susie Lee  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress
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<td>Andy Levin</td>
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<td>Donald M. Payne, Jr.</td>
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<td>Mike Quigley</td>
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<td>C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger</td>
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