

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 9, 2005

Honorable David Hobson, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Energy and Water Development
2362 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Peter Visclosky, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Energy and Water Development
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

We are writing to urge you to eliminate funding for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP), the so-called bunker buster, and other new nuclear weapons. Last year the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water zeroed funding for the Department of Energy's nuclear "bunker buster," and all other additional funding for new nuclear weapons under Advanced Concepts, which is now under the Department's new program Reliable Replacement Warhead.

As you know, the Administration's FY2006 budget request includes \$4 million to revive funding for the RNEP, a nuclear weapon intended to destroy deeply buried and hardened targets such as leadership bunkers or chemical and biological weapons caches, and an additional \$4.5 million for RNEP testing under the Air Force Budget. Another \$14 million would be requested by DOE in FY2007. According to the DOE Budget request:

Activities include participating in integrated NNSA-DoD integrated product teams for development of RNEP requirements and programmatic documents; system design and integration; planning, cost and risks analyses, and phenomenology studies.

In addition to the Bunker Buster, the Reliable Replacement Warhead program in the President's budget raises a number of concerns. This program was added in the Omnibus Conference last year to replace Advanced Concepts. The scope and direction of this program must be clearly defined so that this program does not simply replace the one Congress canceled last year. The Reliable Replacement Warhead program requests a whopping \$97 million in funding over the next five years. According to the DOE Budget Request:

Advanced Concepts Initiative...has been replaced by Stockpile Services Reliable Replacement Warhead...to demonstrate the feasibility of developing reliable replacement components that are producible and certifiable for the existing stockpile. The initial focus will be to provide cost and schedule efficient replacement pits that can be certified without Underground Tests

The United States faces a serious national security threat from the proliferation of nuclear weapons materials and technologies, most notably in North Korea, Pakistan and Iran. We believe that the pursuit of new nuclear weapons such as RNEP sends a dangerously mixed signal to the rest of the world and erodes our nonproliferation credibility. Nations that see the U.S. expanding

and diversifying our nuclear arsenal are encouraged to seek or maintain nuclear deterrents of their own and ignore nonproliferation obligations. Additionally, a U.S. move toward expanding and diversifying our nuclear stockpile is contrary to our legal obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which clearly requires the United States to work toward reducing our nuclear arsenal.

In light of the adverse impact of the pursuit of RNEP and any other new nuclear weapon on international nonproliferation efforts, the fact that RNEP would inevitably spread high levels of radiation above ground, and existing U.S. earth-penetrating and other conventional weapons capabilities, we believe that the RNEP study and the development of any new nuclear weapons are a dangerous and wasteful use of taxpayer money. We are also concerned that shifting funding from the cancelled Advanced Concepts program into the Reliable Replacement Warhead program may result in new nuclear warheads moving forward without any established need or compelling justification. We therefore ask that you eliminate funds for the RNEP program and for any program to study or develop new types of nuclear weapons.

Sincerely,

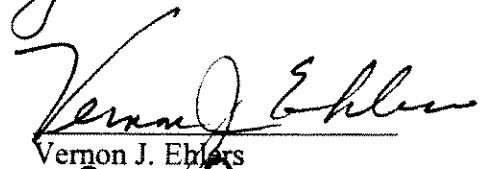

Edward J. Markey

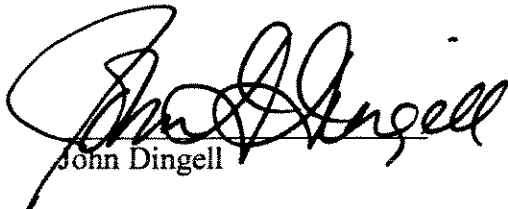

Ellen O. Tauscher

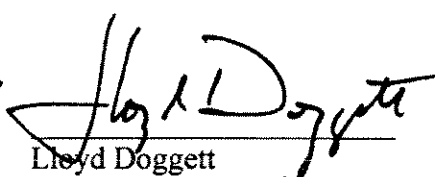

John M. Spratt

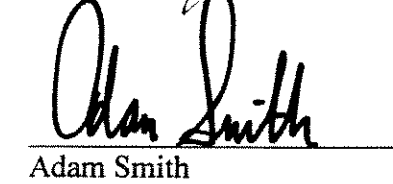

Norman D. Dicks


Barney Frank

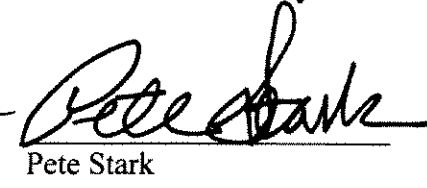

Vernon J. Ehlers

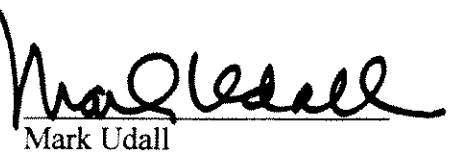

John Dingell


Lloyd Doggett

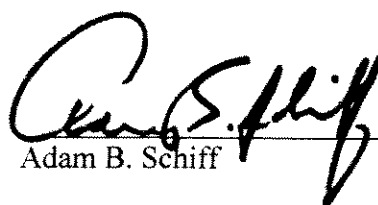

Adam Smith


Mike Thompson

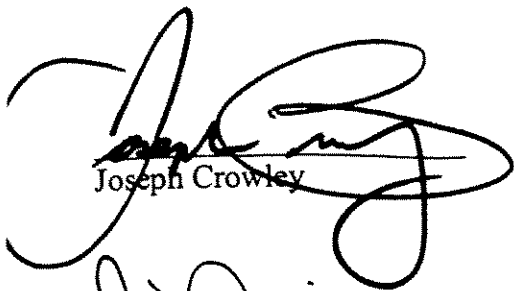

Pete Stark

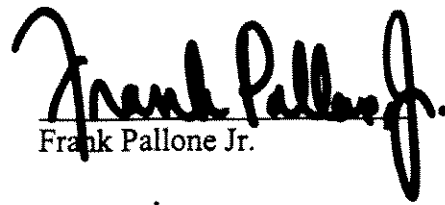

Mark Udall

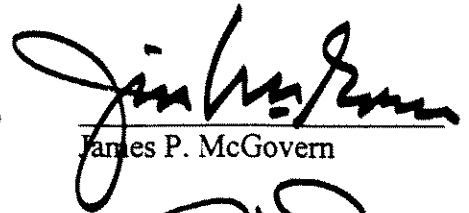

Cynthia McKinney


Adam B. Schiff


Ted Strickland

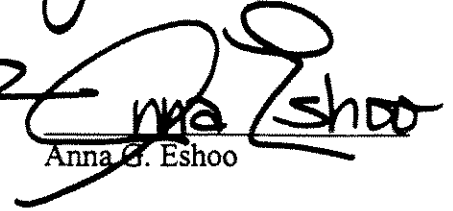

Joseph Crowley


Frank Pallone Jr.

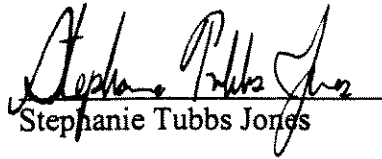

James P. McGovern


Jim Davis


Steve Israel

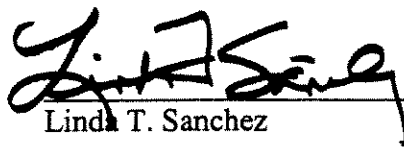

Anna G. Eshoo

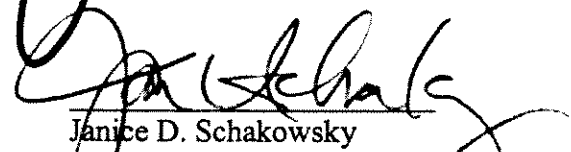

Shelley Berkley

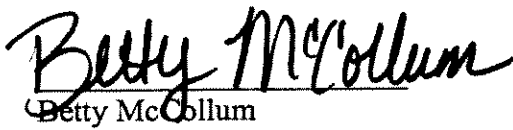

Stephanie Tubbs Jones


John Larson


Rush D. Holt

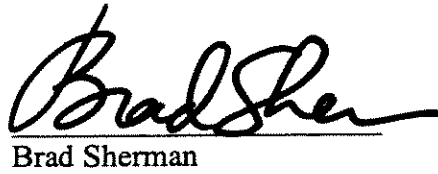

Linda T. Sanchez


Janice D. Schakowsky

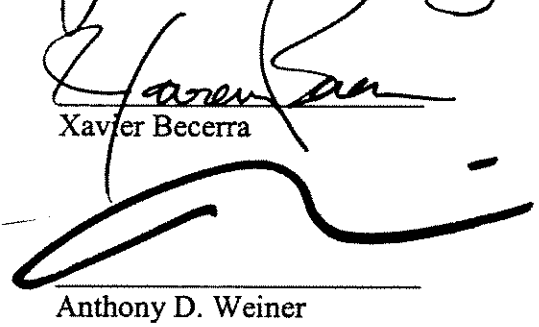

Betty McCollum


Thomas H. Allen


Xavier Becerra


Brad Sherman


Christopher Shays

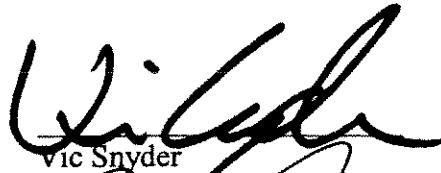

Anthony D. Weiner

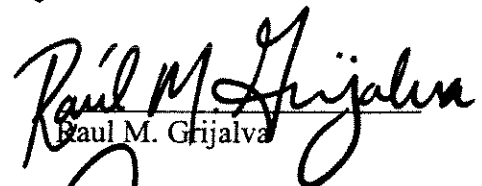

Susan A. Davis


Sam Farr

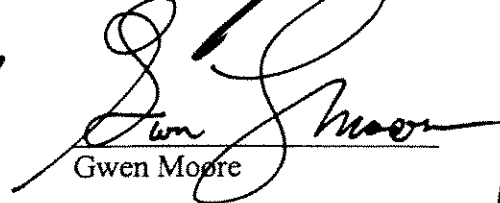

Jim McDermott

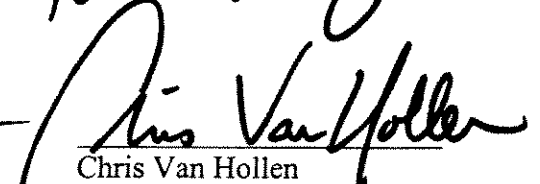

Loretta Sanchez


Vic Snyder

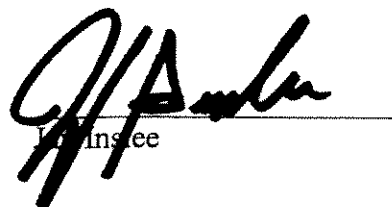

Paul M. Grijalva

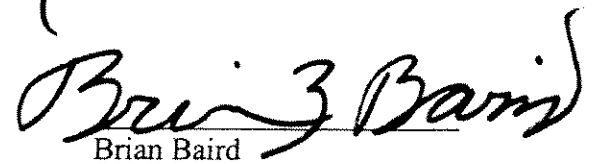

Ron Kind


Gwen Moore


Chris Van Hollen


Michael F. Doyle


Amodeo


Brian Baird

Danny K. Davis
Danny K. Davis

Diana DeGette
Diana DeGette

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Eddie Bernice Johnson

Rick Larsen
Rick Larsen

Michael M. Honda
Michael M. Honda

Dennis J. Kucinich
Dennis J. Kucinich

Barbara Lee
Barbara Lee

Dennis Moore
Dennis Moore

Hilda L. Solis
Hilda L. Solis

Tammy Baldwin
Tammy Baldwin

Emanuel Cleaver
Emanuel Cleaver

Jim Matheson
Jim Matheson

Grace F. Napolitano
Grace F. Napolitano

Dale E. Kildee
Dale E. Kildee

Peter A. DeFazio
Peter A. DeFazio

Eliot L. Engel
Eliot L. Engel

Rosa L. DeLauro
Rosa L. DeLauro

David E. Price
David E. Price

Howard Berman
Howard Berman

Martin T. Meenan
Martin T. Meenan

Lane Evans
Lane Evans

Loe Lofgren
Loe Lofgren

Donald M. Payne
Donald M. Payne

George Miller
George Miller

Richard E. Neal
Richard E. Neal

Bernard Sanders
Bernard Sanders

Neil Abercrombie
Neil Abercrombie

Jim Cooper
Jim Cooper

Henry A. Waxman
Henry A. Waxman

Chaka Fattah
Chaka Fattah

Jerrold Nadler
Jerrold Nadler

James L. Oberstar
James L. Oberstar

Carolyn B. Maloney
Carolyn B. Maloney

Earl Blumenauer
Earl Blumenauer

Corrine Brown
Corrine Brown

Martin Olav Sabo
Martin Olav Sabo

William D. Delahunt
William D. Delahunt

Bob Filner
Bob Filner

John Jr. Conyers
John Jr. Conyers

Darlene Hooley
Darlene Hooley

Sheila Jackson Lee
Sheila Jackson Lee

James Langevin
James Langevin

Sherwood Boehlert
Sherwood Boehlert

Bobby L. Rush
Bobby L. Rush

Juanita Millender-McDonald
Juanita Millender-McDonald

Michael E. Capuano
Michael E. Capuano

Benjamin L. Cardin
Benjamin L. Cardin

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Louise McIntosh Slaughter

Lois Capps
Lois Capps

Diane E. Watson
Diane E. Watson

Gary Ackerman
Gary Ackerman

Edolphus Towns
Edolphus Towns

Doris O. Matsui
Doris O. Matsui

Lynn C. Woolsey
Lynn C. Woolsey

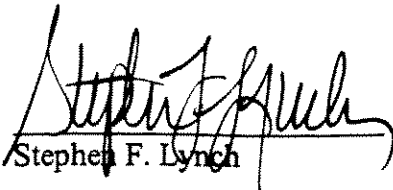
Sherrod Brown
Sherrod Brown

Steny H. Hoyer
Steny H. Hoyer

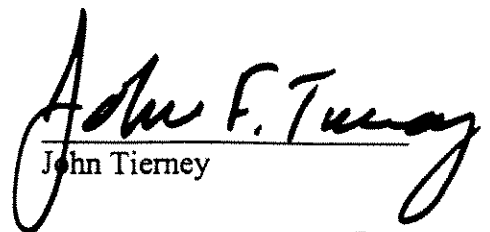
Luis V. Gutierrez
Luis V. Gutierrez

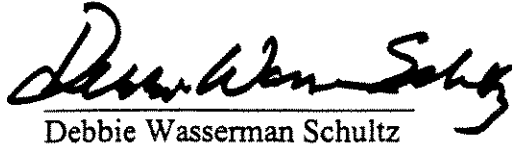
Alcee L. Hastings
Alcee L. Hastings

Robert Brady
Robert Brady

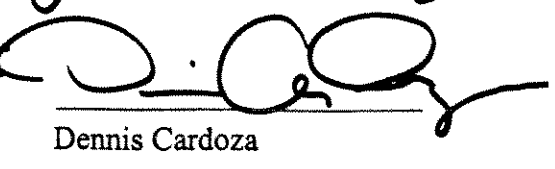

Stephen F. Lynch


James P. Moran

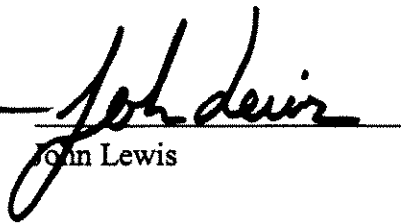

John Tierney


Debbie Wasserman Schultz

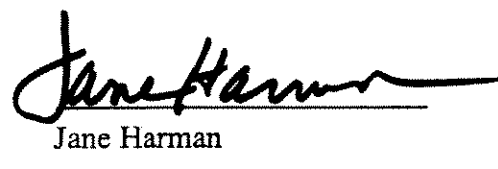

David Wu


Dennis Cardoza

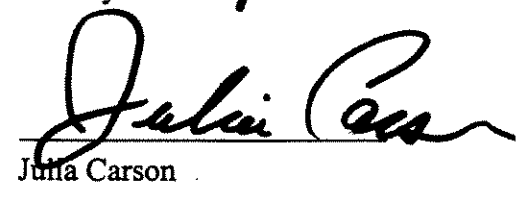

Steven Rothman

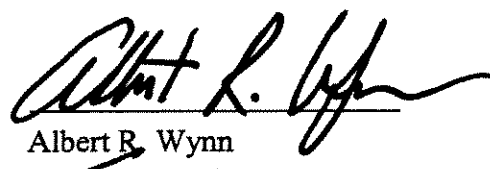

John Lewis

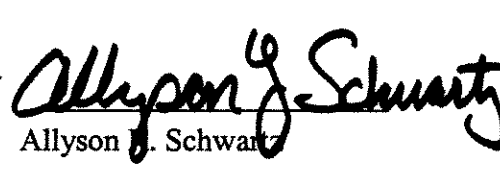

Tim Ryan


Jane Harman

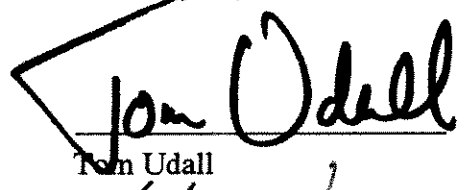

Michael Michaud

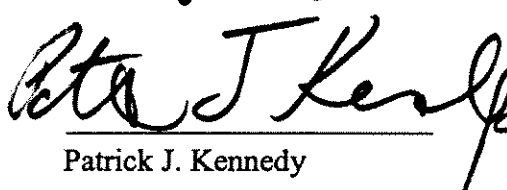

Julia Carson

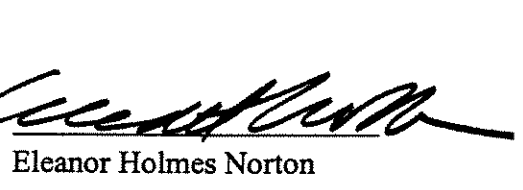

Albert R. Wynn

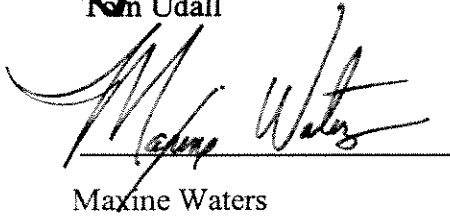

Allyson J. Schwartz

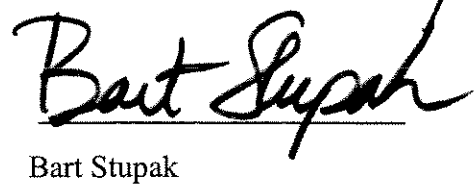

Brad Miller


Tom Udall

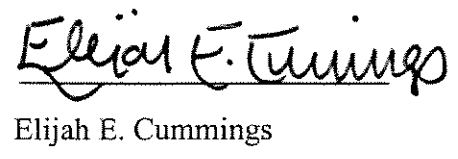

Patrick J. Kennedy


Eleanor Holmes Norton


Maxine Waters


Bart Stupak


Robert E. Andrew


Elijah E. Cummings

