

November 18, 2010

Hon. Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Reid:

We write as newly elected members of the United States Senate regarding a matter we believe should properly be reserved for consideration until we are duly sworn in the 112th Congress: The so-called "New START" arms treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation.


On Election Day we were elected to represent the constituents of our respective states in the Senate. One of the most important tasks of the 112th Congress will be to carefully consider measures that protect the national security of the United States. And few matters will more directly impact our security than arms control agreements like New START that would dramatically reduce the U.S. nuclear deterrent in a strategic environment that is becoming ever more perilous.

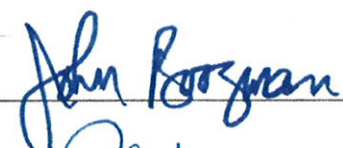
Article II of the Constitution grants the Senate the exclusive responsibility of giving advice and consent to the President on treaties. Out of respect for our states' voters, we believe it would be improper for the Senate to consider the New START Treaty or any other treaty in a lame duck session prior to January 3, 2011. Indeed, no bilateral strategic arms reduction treaty with the Soviet Union or Russia has ever been ratified during a lame duck session.


Additionally we are hopeful to have the opportunity, along with the full Senate, to review the treaty's negotiating record, which is a critically important component in putting the pact in full context.

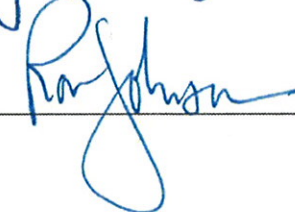
Proponents of this treaty, aware that today's Senate is likely to support the agreement in higher numbers without our participation, are urging the Senate to give its advice and consent in the coming weeks. We call on you to defer action on this arms control treaty until the Senate reconvenes in the 112th Congress and we are able to participate fully and in an informed manner in its deliberations on New START.

Sincerely,









John Brown
M.A.

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Kelly A. Ayette

Jerry Moran