***please see the last paragraphs of this letter before you copy and paste it — there are options for the Senate and the House.***

Dear Senator/Representative,

Presidents from both political parties have declared the United States has a special obligation to show leadership in the world on nuclear nonproliferation. Unfortunately, if we are leading at all these days, it is in the wrong direction. Increases in the budget for nuclear weapons, a commitment to spend trillions to “modernize” the US nuclear program—build new bomb plants, design new warheads, create new missiles, and manufacture new nuclear submarines—these things have triggered a new global nuclear arms race.

This is not a trivial thing—the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* has set the hands of the Doomsday Clock at 100 seconds to midnight. The dangers posed by nuclear weapons have never been greater.

I am writing to urge you to make the US a leader in the effort to control and eliminate nuclear weapons. On January 22, 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force, and nuclear weapons were declared illegal under international law.

Our country has boycotted the TPNW process and says, because we have not signed the Treaty, it has no legal power in the US. Technically, this is true. But that does not excuse us from recognizing the moral force of Treaty. More than half the world’s nations voted to approve the Treaty—they want us and other nuclear nations to keep the promise we made in 1970 in the Nonproliferation Treaty—to pursue complete disarmament “at an early date.”

The TPNW represents the frustration and well-founded fear of non-nuclear nations. It is hard to argue they are wrong when they suspect, after fifty years, that we do not intend to keep that promise. So they have spoken, in the TPNW, with powerful force.

The preamble of the Treaty says, “Deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons, and recognizing the consequent need to completely eliminate such weapons, which remains the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances…”

Signing the Treaty will not make nuclear weapons disappear. But it will put the United States inexorably on the path to a safer and more secure world for all of us. We would be able to show leadership—and history shows us the other nuclear weapons states will follow.

(House) House bill HR 2850 urges the United States to sign and implement the Treaty. I urge you to co-sponsor that bill.

(Senate) House bill HR 2850 urges the United States to sign and implement the Treaty. While there is no companion bill in the Senate as yet, there should be. I urge you to work with Rep. Holmes-Norton's staff to craft and introduce such a bill in the Senate. Even if you doubt its passage, putting it on the Senate's mind will be a significant step forward.

The responsibility to address the single greatest existential threat confronting humanity is a great one. Few people on the planet have the power to take effective action to make us all safer. You are one of them.

Please act, for the sake of all of us.