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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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Honorable Chuck Hagel
Distinguished Professor in the Practice of National Government
Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service
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37th and O Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20057

Dear Senator Hagel,

In view of the aggressive schedule the White House has set for the consideration of your nomination by the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) and the full Senate, we seek your prompt response to these matters of great interest.

As was much discussed during the recent SASC hearing on your nomination, the May 2012 Global Zero report, which you signed, stated the following regarding recommended or "illustrative" options to achieve a 75 percent reduction in deployed nuclear warheads: "These steps could be taken with Russia in unison through reciprocal presidential directives, negotiated in another round of bilateral arms reduction talks, or implemented unilaterally." In fact, this was on page 1 of the report.

However, during questioning at your hearing you said, "Every -- every option that we must look at, every action we must take to reduce warheads or anything should be bilateral. It should be verifiable. It should be negotiated." We are confused as to which position you hold.

We, however, believe that there is a reasonable approach that we wholeheartedly support, and it is that of the current occupant of the office to which you have been nominated, Secretary Leon Panetta. Secretary Panetta stated in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee that, "reductions that have been made, at least in this Administration, have only been made as part of the START process and not outside of that process; and I would expect that that would be the same in the future."

Sir, our question is simple and can be answered in one word, do you now agree with Secretary Panetta's position?

Additionally, regarding the United States TRIAD of delivery systems, the Global Zero report that you signed recommended that the modernization of the U.S. deterrent be deferred or not occur at all. The report straightforwardly states on pages 12 and 13 that, "[t]he follow-on nuclear ICBM program on the drawing boards would be cancelled, the plans for a fleet of next-generation bombers altered and the Trident follow-on program delayed..." Additionally, it recommends that "B-52 heavy bombers would be completely dismantled or converted to carry only conventional weapons," that the U.S. "reduce the size of the nuclear submarine fleet from

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the current 14 to 10 Trident ballistic missile submarines” and “[t]he Minuteman land-based ICBM force would be eliminated.”

Such a position is directly at odds with President Obama who certified to the Senate in February 2011 that he “ intend(s) to modernize or replace the triad of strategic nuclear delivery systems: a heavy bomber and air- launched cruise missile, an ICBM, and a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) and SLBM”.

Again, sir, our question is simple and can be answered in one word, do you now agree with President Obama’s pledge to the Senate?

Sincerely,








