

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2018

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As you prepare for your upcoming summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, we write to urge you to reinvigorate the strategic arms control and stability dialogue between our two nations. Specifically, we ask that you convey America's interest in extending the New START Treaty with Russia by five years, as well as urge President Putin to resolve quickly Russia's ongoing noncompliance with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

Our present relationship with Russia is at its lowest point since the Cold War. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, annexation of Crimea, perpetuation of the ongoing violence in Syria, and interference in our elections, among other issues, have badly strained the relationship. Regrettably, this strain is also apparent in our reduced bilateral dialogue on issues related to strategic arms control.

As the nations with the two largest nuclear arsenals in the world, it is imperative that we cooperate to reduce the risk of nuclear war. Even throughout the Cold War, and often in spite of other sometimes vigorous disagreements, the United States and Russia have maintained a robust strategic arms control dialogue to foster transparency, promote accountability, and preserve stability beneficial to the United States, Russia, and the world.

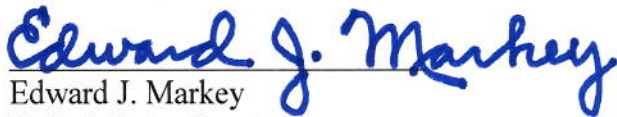
In 2010 the United States Senate ratified the New START Treaty with strong, bipartisan support. The Treaty limits the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads and delivery systems, and includes detailed verification measures to bring much needed transparency to Russia's strategic nuclear arsenal.

At present, the New START Treaty will expire in February 2021. However, as noted by your administration's Nuclear Posture Review, this Treaty "with mutual agreement, may be extended for up to five years, to 2026." Your upcoming summit provides an historic opportunity to announce this extension.


We also urge you to raise Russia's continuing violation of the 1987 INF Treaty, which required the United States and the then-Soviet Union to eliminate all nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500-5,500 kilometers. Russia's deployment of non-compliant missiles threatens not only our security, but that of our closest allies as well. We recognize that your administration has continued to highlight this issue, and we encourage you to press President Putin to return Russia to compliance with its INF treaty obligations immediately.

Mr. President, you have an opportunity to reinvigorate a crucial part of the U.S.-Russia bilateral relationship in spite of its other, overall challenges at present. In the face of these tensions, your leadership will be instrumental to rebuilding our existing strategic arms control and stability dialogue, maintaining arms control treaties imperative to American and global security, and creating new opportunities to expand upon these important efforts with Russia.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



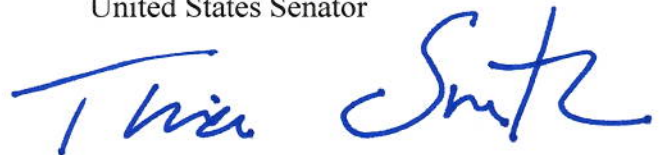
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



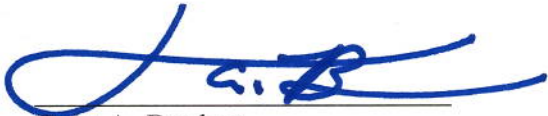
Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



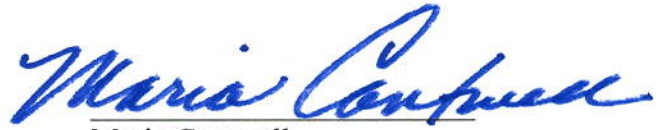
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator