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June 14, 2006

To: Members of the United States Congress

Nothing is more important to U.S. security than blocking further proliferation and possible use of nuclear weapons. The recent nuclear agreement with India weakens the existing nonproliferation regime without providing an acceptable substitute. It should not be approved in its current form.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty, backbone of international efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapon technology, is crumbling and needs to be replaced with a new international framework – one that reflects dramatic changes that have occurred during the 30 years since the treaty was written. New agreements must preserve the many strengths of the current treaty and increase international participation. Bilateral, ad-hoc agreements such as the one just announced with India undercut U.S. and world security.

We strongly endorse actions that can build stronger ties between India and the United States in trade and research. And we believe that worldwide expansion of civilian nuclear power has the potential to provide electricity without increasing carbon emissions to the atmosphere. Rapid growth of civilian nuclear power will, however, greatly increase both the amount of fissionable material transported and stored worldwide, and the number of nuclear fuel production facilities that can also be used to build nuclear weapons.

It is essential that the United States help lead an international effort to design nuclear proliferation controls that reflect these new dangers -- a regime that India can fully support. Such an agreement must include willingness by the United States, Russia, and other nuclear powers to renounce the legitimacy of nuclear weapons and reduce their number to levels far below those called for in existing agreements.

Sincerely,

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