

**Arms Control Association • Bipartisan Security Group • Council for a Livable World  
Federation of American Scientists • Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Global Green USA • Peace Action • Peace Action West • Physicians for Social Responsibility  
20/20 Vision • Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
Women's Action for New Directions**

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January 30, 2009

Dr. Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

Congratulations on your confirmation as the 12<sup>th</sup> Secretary of Energy. In this historic administration, you and your department will have a unique opportunity to put into place policies that move the United States toward President Obama's goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. We write you today about one issue that could undermine that goal: the development of new nuclear weapons.

In his inaugural address, President Obama said his administration would, "with old friends and former foes. . .work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat." The White House website specifically states that President Obama, "will set a goal of a world without nuclear weapons," and "will stop the development of new nuclear weapons."

The Department of Energy is a key player in setting U.S. nuclear weapons policy. Because the current arsenal has been certified as safe and reliable, and will remain so for decades under the Stockpile Stewardship Program, we ask that you issue a policy directive to the national laboratories stating that the Energy Department will stop any development of new nuclear weapons and plutonium "pits," including research or development work on new warhead designs and warhead modifications that would create new military capabilities.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you in the future and will ask your scheduler to set up a meeting soon.

Sincerely,

Daryl G. Kimball, Executive Director  
Arms Control Association

Amb. Robert Grey, Director  
Bipartisan Security Group

John Isaacs, Executive Director  
Council for a Livable World

Ivan Oelrich, Vice President of Strategic Security Program  
Federation of American Scientists

Joe Volk, Executive Secretary  
Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quakers)

Dr. Paul Walker, Director, Security & Sustainability  
Global Green USA

Kevin Martin, Executive Director  
Peace Action

Jon Rainwater, Executive Director  
Peace Action West

Peter Wilk, Executive Director  
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Tom Z. Collina, Executive Director  
2020 Vision

Dr. Lisbeth Gronlund, Senior Scientist and Co-Director, Global Security Program  
Union of Concerned Scientists

James Winkler, General Secretary  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

Susan Shaer, Executive Director  
Women's Action for New Directions