

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 17, 2021

Senator Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

As co-chairs of the Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control (NWAC) Working Group, we write to underscore the importance of and our support for having the United States properly represented at the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference coming up in January of 2022. As you know, Adam Scheinman, the nominee to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with rank of Ambassador, has yet to be confirmed by the United States Senate. Therefore, the U.S. has no clear representation for the conference at this time.

The NPT Review Conference taking place January 4-28, 2022 will convene hundreds of diplomats from states that are party to the 1968 NPT for discussions on the future of international nuclear arms control. State-parties will review compliance with the NPT and take steps to advance the NPT's goals of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, halting the nuclear arms race, and pushing for nuclear disarmament.

This conference comes at a pivotal moment in international tension on these issues as countries like Russia and China are accelerating and updating programs to modernize their nuclear arsenals. We are, therefore, extremely concerned that President Biden's nominee to lead the U.S. delegation to the NPT Review Conference, Adam Scheinman, has not yet been confirmed by the U.S. Senate due to unrelated partisan opposition to the administration's nominations. The U.S. has historically led the international effort to advance and strengthen the goals of the NPT, and we need a strong and experienced diplomat at the helm of these efforts in January. Having led the delegation to the NPT Review Conference in 2015, and as a skilled and widely respected diplomat, Adam Scheinman is clearly the right choice for this job.

Because the time to confirm him is quickly dwindling, we strongly urge you to hold a confirmation vote for Ambassador Scheinman to be the Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation at the earliest possible time, to ensure the U.S. is best represented at this important upcoming conference.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, NWAC Working Group



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator
Co-Chair, NWAC Working Group



John Garamendi
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, NWAC Working Group



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator
Co-Chair, NWAC Working Group

cc: The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

cc: The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20500