

**Arms Control Advocacy Collaborative • Council for a Livable World  
Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quakers)  
Global Security Institute • Nuclear Age Peace Foundation  
Peace Action and Peace Action Education Fund  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Steven and Michele Kirsch Foundation • Women's Action for New Directions**

---

February 15, 2006

Dear Representative:

We would like you to **cosponsor H.Con.Res. 318**, a bipartisan resolution introduced by Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA) and Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) that expresses nuclear proliferation concerns with respect to proposed civilian nuclear cooperation with India.

After a July 2005 meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, President Bush announced he would seek an exception from current restrictions on the transfer of U.S. nuclear technology to India, despite India's unwillingness to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Current U.S. law and Nuclear Suppliers Group regulations prohibit the sale of nuclear technology to a country that refuses to accept "full scope" international safeguards. These assurances guard against diversion of nuclear technology for weapons purposes. U.S. law also bars technology transfers to a non-NPT country that has conducted a nuclear test explosion. India possesses some 50 to 100 nuclear weapons and is one of only four countries that is not an NPT member.

While we support strong U.S.-India relations, we have concerns regarding the precedent set by this proposed agreement. Making a deal with India, irrespective of the NPT, limits the ability of the U.S. to ensure that other countries, particularly Iran, live up to their obligations under the treaty. As Leonard Weiss, the chief architect of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act of 1978, recently wrote in a *Los Angeles Times* op-ed (December 30), the agreement may encourage other states to proliferate. "Some nations may decide that if they withdraw from the treaty, build nuclear weapons, and wait long enough while avoiding antagonizing the United States, they will eventually get all the nuclear help they want."

H.Con.Res. 318 confirms humanitarian and scientific U.S. support for India, while finding that the proposal for full civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries poses far-reaching and potentially adverse implications for the nuclear nonproliferation objectives of the U.S. It expresses concern that the supply of nuclear fuel to India could free-up India's existing fissile material production capacity and allow it to substantially increase its arsenal. It also reiterates disapproval of any nuclear technology transfers to a country that is not a party to the NPT and has not accepted full-scope safeguards.

Experts across the political spectrum agree that the spread of nuclear weapons is one of the greatest security threats faced by the United States. Congress should do everything in its power to prevent the proliferation of these dangerous weapons and oppose actions that would weaken the NPT and the Nuclear Suppliers Group. To this end, please **cosponsor H.Con.Res. 318**.

To become a cosponsor, please contact Nicole Gasparini in Rep. Markey's office at [Nicole.Gasparini@mail.house.gov](mailto:Nicole.Gasparini@mail.house.gov) or 225-2836.

(more)

Sincerely,

Terri Lodge, Coordinator  
Arms Control Advocacy Collaborative

John Isaacs, President  
Council for a Livable World

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

Ambassador Robert Grey, Jr., Director of Bipartisan Security Group  
Global Security Institute

David Krieger, President  
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Kevin M. Martin, Executive Director  
Peace Action and Peace Action Education Fund

Robert K. Musil, PhD, Executive Director and CEO  
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Kathleen Gwynn, President and CEO  
Steven and Michele Kirsch Foundation

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