

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2002

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing regarding the recent revelation that North Korea has finally acknowledged that it has been conducting a major clandestine nuclear weapons development program for the last several years in violation of the 1994 Agreed Framework and its commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and to urge you to take quick and decisive action to address this grave threat to our national security.

In light of the strong position you have taken on Iraq, we were surprised and disappointed to learn that you have not taken more vigorous action thus far in response to North Korea's recent admission that it has been violating its nuclear non-proliferation obligations. Press reports have indicated that despite the fact that North Korea has announced it has "nullified" the 1994 Agreed Framework it signed with the United States, your Administration has not yet scrapped this agreement. Moreover, press reports suggest that you have so far been unsuccessful in convincing China, Japan, and South Korea to do anything beyond condemning North Korea for its continuing violations of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, its International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards Agreement, its agreement with South Korea on de-nuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and the 1994 Agreed Framework with the United States.

We urge you to take a strong and vigorous response to this threat now before it is too late. Specifically, we urge you to

- 1) Immediately announce the cancellation of plans to proceed with the construction of two light water nuclear reactors in North Korea. In light of Kim Jong-Il's ongoing efforts to acquire a nuclear weapons capability, it is time for the U.S. to cease all nuclear cooperation with North Korea, including the planned transfer of both nuclear technology and fissile material that could be converted to use in weapons. South Korea and Japan, the other partners in the 1994 Agreed Framework, must be called upon to do the same. It is utterly irresponsible to be threatening war against Iraq, a country that is *suspected* of having a nuclear weapons program, while promising nuclear technology and fissile materials to North Korea, which has been long suspected but is now *known* to be developing an offensive nuclear weapons capability.
- 2) Having cancelled our own plans to sell reactors to North Korea, immediately renew efforts to put an end to the sale of 6 nuclear reactors by Russia to Iran. Russia has

resisted your previous requests on this topic, often by asking the rhetorical question "How can you criticize Russian sales to Iran when you are selling the same items to North Korea?" Now is the time to put an end to the mutual finger-pointing and begin, instead, to engage in mutual commitments to end the export of nuclear technology to nations seeking a nuclear weapons capability.

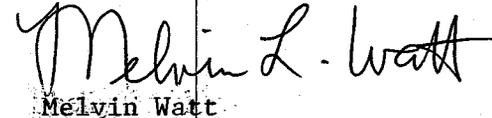
We request that you issue a clear and unambiguous statement that the United States will no longer support the transfer of two light water reactors to North Korea, and that it will instead move to block any such transfers. In the event that North Korea comes into compliance with its nuclear nonproliferation obligations, the international community should consider non-nuclear means of meeting North Korea's energy needs. But the world should no longer support Kim Jong Il's attempts to acquire nuclear power plants and related nuclear materials and technology.

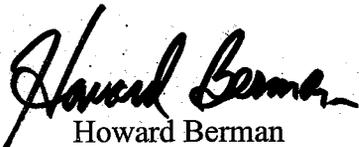
Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey

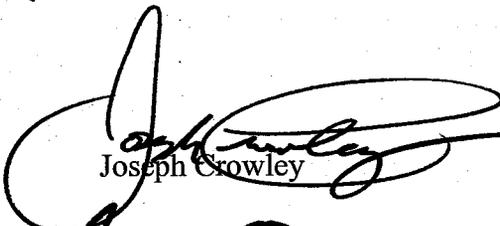

Neil Abercrombie


Melvin Watt

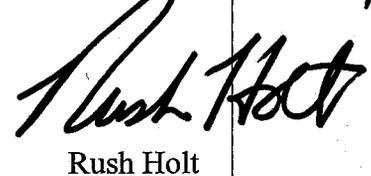

Howard Berman

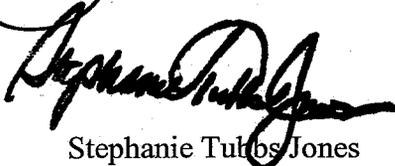

Sherrod Brown


Michael Capuano


Joseph Crowley


Martin Frost

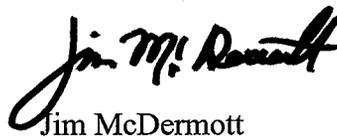

Rush Holt


Stephanie Tubbs Jones

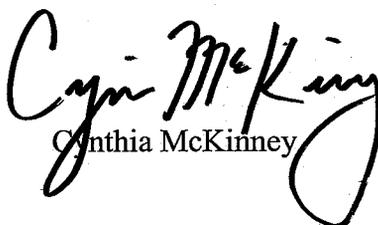

Carolyn Kilpatrick


John Lewis

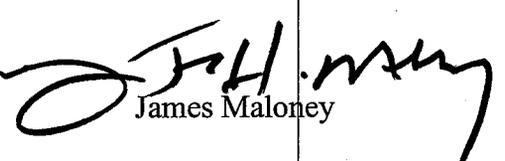

William Lipinski


Jim McDermott


Mike McIntyre


Cynthia McKinney


Carolyn Maloney


James Maloney

Carrie P. Meek

Carrie Meek

George Miller

George Miller

Richard Neal

Richard Neal

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Edolphus Towns

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Maxine Waters

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Diane E. Watson

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Merwin Watt