

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 30, 2010

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
Room SR-228
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
Room SR-228
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Levin and Ranking Member McCain:

The Armed Services Committee traditionally has played an important role in the Senate's advice and consent to ratification of arms control treaties. As the Senate considers the New START, our committee will want to assess the strategic implications of the proposed treaty to ensure that the United States continues to maintain a strong deterrent in support of our security and that of our allies.

In addition to hearing from Administration witnesses, it is important that the Committee solicit a broad range of views on the significant issues that have a bearing on the treaty and U.S. security. These include, among others, the limitations in the treaty on missile defense and conventional prompt global strike; the implications for U.S. nuclear force structure under the proposed limitations; the consequences for strategic stability of the disparity in tactical nuclear weapons between Russia and the United States; the ability of the United States to adequately monitor Russian strategic force activities; and whether the administration and Congress is committed to the modernization of our nuclear warheads, the nuclear weapons complex, and strategic delivery systems. To address these issues, we request you consider the following potential witnesses as you plan the Committee's hearing schedule:

- Admiral Richard Mies (ret.), former STRATCOM commander
- Dr. Keith Payne, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
- Mr. Stephen Rademaker, former Assistant Secretary of State
- Ambassador David Smith, former head of Defense and Space Talks
- Dr. William Van Cleave, former strategic forces advisor to Defense and State Dept.
- Ambassador James Woolsey, former CIA Director

Should the committee solicit testimony from the directors of the national laboratories with respect to nuclear modernization efforts, we recommend that a

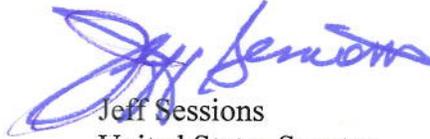
complementary panel be convened to receive the views of former lab directors such as Dr. John Foster and Dr. Paul Robinson.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you as the Committee continues its consideration of the New START.

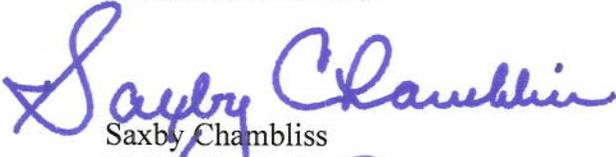
Sincerely,



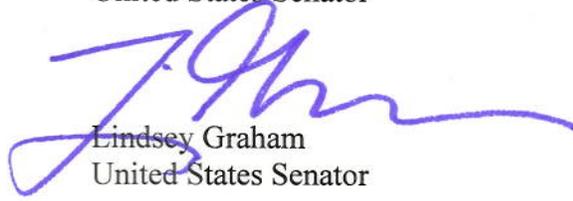
James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator



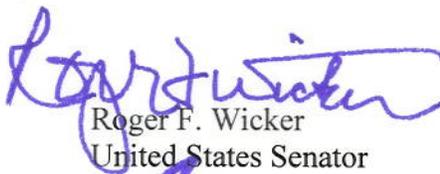
Saxby Chambliss
United States Senator



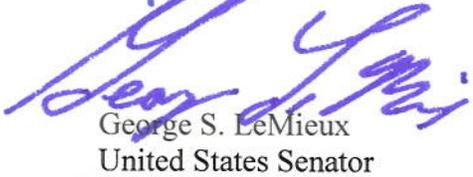
Lindsey Graham
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



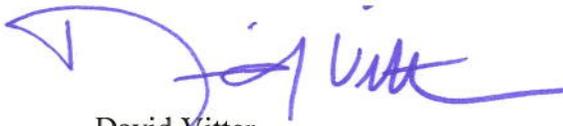
George S. LeMieux
United States Senator



Scott P. Brown
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



David Vitter
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator