

Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War

Sample Request for Municipalities & Elected Officials

Dear _____

I'm writing as a constituent to ask you to join many municipalities and organizations in endorsing Back from the Brink: Call to Prevent Nuclear War, a simple, 5-point set of common sense, practical policy solutions (see below) that would greatly reduce the real and immediate risks posed by nuclear weapons and the chances that they will ever again be used.

Drafted by two prominent national organizations, the Union of Concerned Scientists and Physicians for Social Responsibility, the purpose of Back from the Brink is to build broad, bi-partisan public and congressional support for fundamental changes in U.S nuclear weapons policy.

As the head of (your town/city/elected official), endorsing the Back from the Brink is a simple way to lend your voice and stature on an issue that affects every one of your constituents and all of humanity.

This is not a partisan issue. This matters to me, my family and our community, regardless of political affiliation. As (title of office), you have a solemn duty to do what you can to keep your constituents safe – and nuclear weapons should be no exception. In that regard we hope that you will not only endorse Back from the Brink but also issue a public statement about your endorsement to our local/state media, as well as inform our congressional delegation of your support.

Today, nine nations possess nearly 14,000 nuclear weapons, most of which are far more destructive than those that killed over 100,000 people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan in 1945. The detonation of even a small number of these weapons could have catastrophic global consequences.

And the threat of nuclear war is growing. Global tensions are on the rise and, in our own country, there are plans to rebuild the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal at the staggering cost of \$1.7 trillion over the next three decades. This includes plans to build more “usable” nuclear weapons for nuclear war fighting, increasing the chance that these weapons could be used. U.S taxpayers already spend some \$2 million every hour of every day maintaining the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

Right now, President Trump, like all U.S. presidents before him, has sole authority to order the use of US nuclear weapons. This is deeply troubling and illustrates the dangers of leaving such a momentous decision in the hands of one person.

Nuclear weapons don't make us safer, and the enormous sum of money we spend to build and maintain them makes it more difficult to fund other critical programs for our cities and towns, such as responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and related unemployment, public housing & education, environmental protection, anti-poverty programs, rural internet access, combating the opioid epidemic, and more.

Your endorsement of Back from the Brink is a simple step you can take that will send a powerful signal to members of our congressional delegation and other leaders in Washington that it's time for a fundamental shift away from thinking of nuclear weapons as instruments of security; instead we must start moving toward a world free of them.

More information can be found at www.preventnuclearwar.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War

We call on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

1. renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
2. ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
3. taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
4. cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
5. actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.