It’s time to get serious about nuclear disarmament: An open letter from local, county, and state officials to President Joe Biden

November 16, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear President Biden:

We, local and state elected officials from throughout the country, write to you about a clear and present danger—the growing threat of nuclear war—to urge you to act decisively and urgently to confront this existential threat to humanity and all we hold dear.

In July, 2022 you said “I have a responsibility to act with urgency and resolve when our nation faces clear and present danger.” You also speak regularly and eloquently about the American people's ability to take on big challenges and accomplish whatever it is we set out to do as a people, as a country.

There are a number of steps you should take immediately that will significantly reduce nuclear risks, make the United States and the entire world safer and get us back on the path to a world free of nuclear weapons.

As you know these goals are shared by the other major nuclear powers whose leaders joined with you in 2022 to declare that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought” while also affirming the shared obligation under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) Treaty "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament."

Mr. President, it’s time to act before catastrophe strikes and our luck runs out.

From November 27th to December 1st, 2023, the 2nd Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) will be held in New York City. We urge your administration to send an observer delegation to the meeting. Doing so would send a clear signal to all nations — notably those countries that have either signed or ratified the TPNW — that their voices, concerns and desire for a safer world matter and that you believe the treaty can be an effective tool to make progress on global nuclear disarmament.
During the 2020 presidential campaign you said, “I will restore American leadership on arms control and non-proliferation as a central pillar of U.S. global leadership...I will work to bring us closer to a world free of nuclear weapons so that the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are never repeated.”

We urge you to show that leadership now by formally inviting Russia, China and all nuclear weapons states to enter into negotiations to pursue a verifiable, time bound agreement to eliminate all nuclear weapons. Such an invitation to pursue dialogue and diplomacy built on a foundation of mutual self-interest in preventing a catastrophic nuclear war is precisely what is needed right now in the midst of heightened global tensions.

Sincerely,

Pious Ali  
City Councilor At-Large/  
Mayor Pro Tem  
Portland, ME

Judy Amabile  
State Representative  
Boulder, CO

Tom Andersen  
State Representative  
Salem, OR

Jimmy Anderson  
State Representative  
Fitchburg, WI

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State Representative  
Holliston, MA

Poppy Arford  
State Representative  
Brunswick, ME

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Mayor  
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County Commissioner  
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Lexington, MA

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Assemblymember  
Ventura, CA

Olivia Bennett  
County Councilor  
Pittsburgh, PA

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State Representative  
Warwick, RI

Daniel Biss  
Mayor  
Evanston, IL

Mary Boren  
State Senator  
Norman, OK

Alex Bores  
Assemblymember  
New York, NY

Ryan Braunberger  
State Senator  
Fargo, ND, ND

Aaron Brockett  
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Boulder, CO

Kyle Brown  
State Representative  
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Mary Ann Carbone  
Mayor  
Sand City, CA

Anne Carney  
State Senator  
Cape Elizabeth, ME

TJ Cawley  
Mayor  
Morrisville, NC

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Councilor  
Corvallis, OR

Heather Chase  
State Representative  
Chester, VT

Ryan Clancy  
County Supervisor  
Milwaukee, WI

John Cloutier  
State Representative  
Claremont, NH

Jo Comerford  
State Senator  
Florence, MA

Dave Considine  
State Representative  
Baraboo, WI

Christine Corrado  
Councilmember  
Brighton, NY

Frank Cownie  
Mayor  
Des Moines, IA

Margaret Craven  
State Representative  
Lewiston, ME

Margaret Croke  
State Representative  
Chicago, IL

Justin Cummings  
Third District County Supervisor  
Santa Cruz, CA
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Dahl</td>
<td>City Council Member</td>
<td>Tucson, AZ</td>
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<td>John W. Duncan</td>
<td>Alder</td>
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<td>Jane Fuller</td>
<td>County Councilor</td>
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<td>Tyron Hampton</td>
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<td>Hope Damon</td>
<td>NH state representative</td>
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<td>Dee Durham</td>
<td>Council Member, New Castle County</td>
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<td>Tavia Galonski</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>Akron, OH</td>
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<td>Sara Hannan</td>
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<td>Kate Dean</td>
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<td>Heather Edelson</td>
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<td>Mark Gamba</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>Milwaukie, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Hansen</td>
<td>County Commission Chair</td>
<td>Santa Fe County, NM</td>
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<td>Chris deGruy Kennedy</td>
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<td>Harvey Epstein</td>
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<td>Clark Gilman</td>
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<td>Evan Glass</td>
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<td>Cheryl Golek</td>
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<td>Nadia Hasan</td>
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<td>Ghazala Hashmi</td>
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<td>Denise Hayman</td>
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<td>Kari Dolan</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>Waitsfield, VT</td>
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<td>Lauren Folkerts</td>
<td>City Councilmember</td>
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<td>Bill Henry</td>
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<td>Brian Donohue</td>
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<td>Karen Foster</td>
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<td>Dennis Highberger</td>
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<td>Maria Hadden</td>
<td>Alderwoman</td>
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<td>Marshall Hyde</td>
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<td>Linda Duba</td>
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<td>John Hamilton</td>
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<td>Hank Hughes</td>
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<td>Susan Hughes-Smith</td>
<td>Monroe County Legislator</td>
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Sadaf Jaffer
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Julie Palakovich Carr
State Delegate
Rockville, MD
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<td>Becca Rausch</td>
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<td>Gerry Pollet</td>
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<td>Rene Spring</td>
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<td>Frederick Prendergast</td>
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<td>Dr. Brian Sager</td>
<td>County Board Member</td>
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<td>Andi Story</td>
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<td>Jim Provenza</td>
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<td>Betsy Stix</td>
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<td>Gina-Louise Sciarra</td>
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<td>Northampton, MA</td>
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<td>Andi Story</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>Juneau, AK</td>
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<td>Bapu Vaitla</td>
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<td>Erika Strassburger</td>
<td>City Councilperson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucy Vinis</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>Eugene, OR</td>
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<td>Antoinette Sedillo Lopez</td>
<td>State Senator</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
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<td>Jennifer Kwan</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Vitale</td>
<td>City Councilman</td>
<td>St. Clair Shores, MI</td>
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Joe Vogel  
State Representative  
Gaithersburg, MD  

Ben Walsh  
Mayor  
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