

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2013

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to express our concern and regret at your decision to sign the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty. For the following reasons, we oppose the ratification of this treaty and its implementation in law:

First, the treaty was adopted by a procedure which violates a red line laid down by your own administration. In October 2009, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated that the U.S. supported the negotiation of the treaty only by “the rule of consensus decision-making.” But in April 2013, after the treaty failed to achieve consensus, it was adopted by majority vote in the U.N. General Assembly. We fear that this reversal has done grave damage to the diplomatic credibility of the United States.

Second, the treaty allows amendments by a three-quarters majority vote. As the treaty is amended, it will become a source of political and legal pressure on the U.S. to comply in practice with amendments it was unwilling to accept. This would circumvent the power and duty of the Senate to provide its advice and consent on treaty commitments before they are assumed by the United States.

Third, the treaty includes only a weak, non-binding reference to the lawful ownership and use of, and trade in firearms, and recognizes none of these activities, much less individual self-defense, as fundamental individual rights. It encourages governments to collect the identities of individual end users of imported firearms at the national level, which would constitute the core of a national gun registry, and it creates a national “responsibility” to “prevent . . . [the] diversion” of firearms, which could be used to justify the imposition of controls within the U.S. that would pose a threat to the Second Amendment and infringe on the rights protected therein.

Fourth, the State Department has acknowledged that the treaty is “ambiguous.” By becoming party to the treaty, the U.S. would therefore be accepting commitments that are inherently unclear. The Senate cannot effectively provide advice on an ambiguous treaty, and it should never provide its consent to such a treaty.

Fifth, the criteria at the heart of the treaty are vague and easily politicized. They will restrict the ability of the U.S. to conduct our own foreign policy, and will steadily subject the U.S. to the influence of internationally-defined norms, a process that would impinge on our

national sovereignty. We believe that treaties which allow foreign sources of authority to impose judgment or control upon the U.S., as this one does, violate the right of the American people, under the Constitution, to freely govern themselves.

Sixth, the State Department has acknowledged that "specific . . . country concerns, including Taiwan, China, and the Middle East, create challenges for establishing [treaty] criteria that can be applied without exception and fit U.S. national security interests. These concerns would make Senate ratification difficult." We are indeed deeply concerned that the treaty criteria as established could hinder the United States in fulfilling its strategic, legal, and moral commitments to provide arms to key allies such as the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the State of Israel.

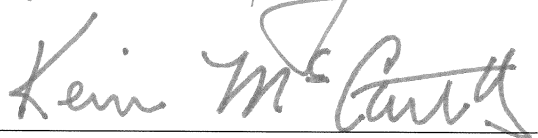
We urge you to notify the treaty depository that the U.S. does not intend to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty, and is therefore not bound by its obligations. As members of Congress, we pledge to support the Senate in opposition to the ratification of this treaty, and we give notice that we do not regard the U.S. as bound to uphold its object and purpose. Further, we regard this treaty as non-self-executing, and oppose the passage of implementing legislation that is necessary for the treaty to have any domestic effect. Lastly, as members of the House of Representatives, which is particularly invested with the power of the purse, we oppose the use of any funds to implement the Arms Trade Treaty.

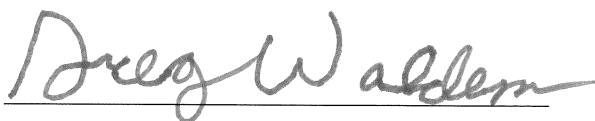
We appreciate your consideration on this issue and look forward to your response.

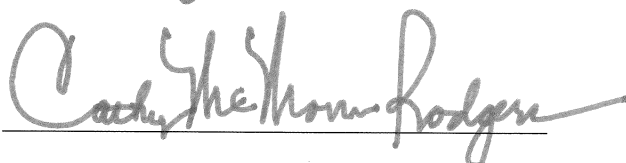
Sincerely,

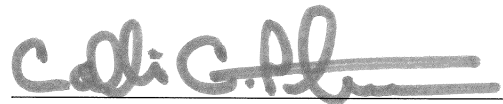
Members of Congress



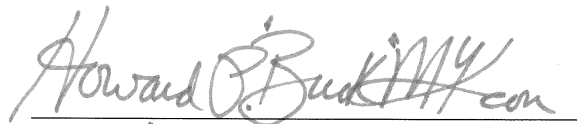


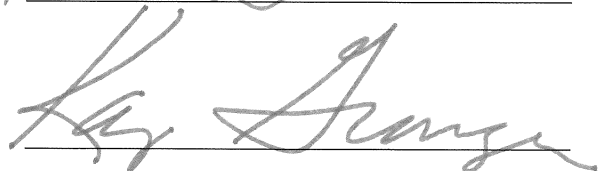








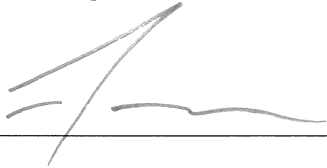




Midwest STAR-1

Bill Johnson

CPA



John Henshaw

John Culberson

Lamar Smith

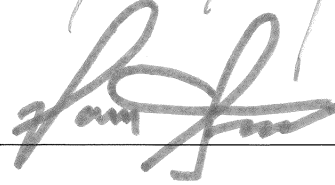
Bill Owens

Ornosca

Rod Davis

Steve Ruppert

Cliff Bond



John Turner

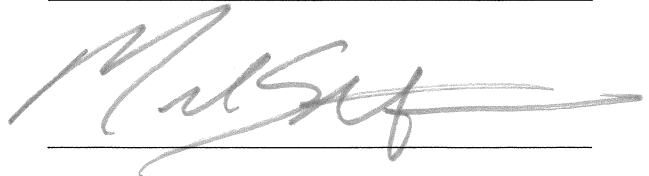
Bob Sessic

Bob Goodlatte

Virginia Cox

Joseph Pitts

Jeff Miller
Michael Neal



John Cantor

A. E. Bayan

J. R. Dyke

~~_____~~

John J. Duncan Jr.

Carrie Smith

Lee Terry

Dr. M. B. Bland

J. P. Bogan (M)

W. H. Simon

James B. Adair

David L. Linn

Van Zuber

E. Whitfield

Steve King

Jan T. Smith

Rene Lehman

Mike Linn

Walter B. Jones

Don Gray

Shelley Moore Capito

Steve Chabot

Ralph M. Hall

Boef

~~AMMML~~

Richard Bachman

K. M. Smith Conroy

~~Steve~~

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Kent Starks

Jim Walling

Paul C. Brown

Billy Jeffrey

Wipe Colman

Bob E. Jones

Tom Cole

Clark Kingston

Gary L. Miller

Tim Muesley

Harold Cole

Andy Harris M.D.

Paul Price

Bill Jones MO-87

Kent Ribble

Mac Miller

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Ch Stewart

Bob Mills

Stefan ^{MS4}

Amil B. M. *[Handwritten signature]*

John Fleming

[Handwritten signature]

Steve Dan

J: John

Chuck Fli

Gregg Harper

Pete Olson

Alpha Pagan - AC

[Handwritten signature] TX 36

Tom Murno

[Handwritten signature] TX-04

Tom Colter

Sam Bell

Cynthia M. Lummis

Quinn Black

Histi Soero
Stachmann

Steph Fend

Max Kwapac Mullin

Bill Cassidy

Tris Anjini

Brod R. Wansley

Arzo

David Schmidt

Alan Nummelee

Becir Lemy

Truy Radel
Roger Williams

Chris Collins

A. Mungin Giff

Mo Brooks

Mark ...

Paul ...

John J. ...

Ken ...

Randy ...

David Webb FL-10

IX-19

Pat Tilvin

Mickey Pompei

Lou Barletta

Jeff Pomeroy

Blake Farenthold

Joe Heck

~~Carl Albert~~

Jim Buchanani

Marsha Blackburn

Mark V. Amodeo

Robert Pittenger

Bill Posey

Glen GT Thompson

Scott Perry

Tim Huelskamp

~~Bob~~ (OH-16)

Leonard Lance

Cory Gardner

Li Yoh

Eric Lipton

Conrad Scott

Joseph Antivolis

Jack Kotyke PA-12

Paul A. Lassar. DSS AZ-04

Doug La Malfa

Luke Messer

Randy K. Wilson

Dr. Brinkley MI-01

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S. Holz

Doug Colby GA-09

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Mark Wint

Richard Hubson

Tom Graves

Gail Piangrey
Jacki Wilenski

L. P. Clark

DLK

Larry Bush

Lee Jones OH-15

Vicky Hartzler

Lynne Jenkins

Bin Fung

C. W. Ditt

John Kline

Mac Tubby

Irvin D. Lucas

Ken Alvert

Brett Guthrie

Andy Brown

Pat Woodall

Thomas O.

Samie Campy

James Baker

George Wilson

Ed S. Yoho

Paul Wagner mo-02

David R. Lee

Steve Sack

Rich

Keith [unclear] FL-11

John L. Merban

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2. <i>Collin Peterson</i>	MN-07	48. Shelley Moore Capito	WV-02
3. Kevin McCarthy	CA-23	49. Robert Aderholt	AL-04
4. Steve Scalise	LA-01	50. Steve Chabot	OH-01
5. Greg Walden	OR-02	51. Doug Lamborn	CO-05
6. Buck McKeon	CA-25	52. Ralph Hall	TX-04
7. Cathy McMorris Rodgers	WA-05	53. C.W. Bill Young	FL-13
8. Kay Granger	TX-12	54. Ted Poe	TX-02
9. Rick Crawford	AR-01	55. Michele Bachmann	MN-06
10. Charles Boustany	LA-03	56. Mike Conaway	TX-11
11. Bill Johnson	OH-06	57. Steve Pearce	NM-02
12. Sam Graves	MO-06	58. Lynn Westmoreland	GA-03
13. Chris Gibson	NY-19	59. Trent Franks	AZ-08
14. <i>John Barrow</i>	GA-12	60. Tim Walberg	MI-07
15. Tom Reed	NY-23	61. Paul Broun	GA-10
16. Pete Sessions	TX-32	62. Blaine Luetkemeyer	MO-03
17. Jeb Hensarling	TX-05	63. Mike Coffman	CO-06
18. Bob Goodlatte	VA-06	64. Bob Latta	OH-05
19. John Culberson	TX-07	65. Tom Cole	OK-04
20. Virginia Foxx	NC-05	66. Jack Kingston	GA-01
21. Lamar Smith	TX-21	67. Gary Miller	CA-31
22. Joe Pitts	PA-16	68. Tim Murphy	PA-18
23. <i>Bill Owens</i>	NY-21	69. Howard Coble	NC-06
24. Jeff Miller	FL-01	70. Andy Harris	MD-01
25. Peter Roskam	IL-06	71. David Joyce	OH-14
26. Michael McCaul	TX-10	72. Billy Long	MO-07
27. Rodney Davis	IL-13	73. Reid Ribble	WI-08
28. Marlin Stutzman	IN-03	74. Mark Meadows	NC-11
29. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	FL-27	75. Dennis Ross	FL-15
30. John Carter	TX-31	76. Chuck Fleischmann	TN-03
31. Joe Barton	TX-06	77. Kevin Brady	TX-08
32. Vern Buchanan	FL-16	78. Gregg Harper	MS-03
33. Randy Forbes	VA-04	79. Rob Bishop	UT-01
34. Ed Whitfield	KY-01	80. Pete Olson	TX-22
35. John Mica	FL-07	81. Chris Stewart	UT-02
36. Steve King	IA-04	82. Mike Rogers	AL-03
37. John Duncan, Jr.	TN-02	83. Bob Gibbs	OH-07
38. Jason Smith	MO-08	84. Steve Stockman	TX-36
39. Adrian Smith	NE-03	85. Steven Palazzo	MS-04
40. Louie Gohmert	TX-01	86. Tom Marino	PA-10
41. Lee Terry	NE-02	87. David McKinley	WV-01
42. Mike Simpson	ID-02	88. Scott DesJarlais	TN-04
43. Gus Bilirakis	FL-12	89. John Fleming	LA-04
44. Walter Jones	NC-03	90. Tom Cotton	AR-04
45. Michael Burgess	TX-26	91. James Lankford	OK-05
46. Don Young	AK-AL	92. Scott Rigell	VA-02

93. Steve Daines	MT-AL	139. Robert Pittenger	NC-09
94. Cynthia Lummis	WY-AL	140. Kerry Bentivolio	MI-11
95. Jim Jordan	OH-04	141. Keith Rothfus	PA-12
96. Diane Black	TN-06	142. Richard Hudson	NC-08
97. Kristi Noem	SD-AL	143. Paul Gosar	AZ-04
98. Trey Radel	FL-19	144. Tom Graves	GA-14
99. Steve Womack	AR-03	145. Doug LaMalfa	CA-01
100. Roger Williams	TX-25	146. Phil Gingrey	GA-11
101. Stephen Fincher	TN-08	147. Luke Messer	IN-06
102. Chris Collins	NY-27	148. Jackie Walorski	IN-02
103. Markwayne Mullin	OK-02	149. Randy Weber	TX-14
104. Morgan Griffith	VA-09	150. Tom McClintock	CA-04
105. Bill Cassidy	LA-06	151. Dan Benishek	MI-01
106. Mo Brooks	AL-05	152. David Valadao	CA-21
107. Tim Griffin	AR-02	153. Austin Scott	GA-08
108. Steve Southerland	FL-02	154. Larry Bucshon	IN-08
109. Brad Wenstrup	OH-02	155. George Holding	NC-13
110. Paul Cook	CA-08	156. Steve Stivers	OH-15
111. Adam Kinzinger	IL-16	157. Doug Collins	GA-09
112. Sean Duffy	WI-07	158. Vicky Hartzler	MO-04
113. David Schweikert	AZ-06	159. Renee Ellmers	NC-02
114. Doc Hastings	WA-04	160. Lynn Jenkins	KS-02
115. Alan Nunnelee	MS-01	161. Ron DeSantis	FL-06
116. Randy Neugebauer	TX-19	162. Bill Flores	TX-17
117. Kevin Cramer	ND-AL	163. Charlie Dent	PA-15
118. Daniel Webster	FL-10	164. Spencer Bachus	AL-06
119. Pat Tiberi	OH-12	165. John Kline	MN-02
120. Bill Posey	FL-08	166. Joe Wilson	SC-02
121. Mike Pompeo	KS-04	167. Mac Thornberry	TX-13
122. Glenn Thompson	PA-05	168. Ted Yoho	FL-03
123. Lou Barletta	PA-11	169. Frank Lucas	OK-03
124. Scott Perry	PA-04	170. Ann Wagner	MO-02
125. Jeff Duncan	SC-03	171. Ken Calvert	CA-42
126. Tim Huelskamp	KS-01	172. Phil Roe	TN-01
127. Blake Farenthold	TX-27	173. Brett Guthrie	KY-02
128. Jim Renacci	OH-16	174. Aaron Schock	IL-18
129. Joe Heck	NV-03	175. Andy Barr	KY-06
130. Leonard Lance	NJ-07	176. Jeff Denham	CA-10
131. Todd Rokita	IN-04	177. Rob Woodall	GA-07
132. Cory Gardner	CO-04	178. Rich Nugent	FL-11
133. Jim Bridenstine	OK-01	179. Tom Price	GA-06
134. Kevin Yoder	KS-03	180. Patrick Meehan	PA-07
135. Marsha Blackburn	TN-07	181. Dave Camp	MI-04
136. Scott Tipton	CO-03		
137. Mark Amodei	NV-02		
138. Duncan Hunter	CA-50		