Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2013

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Since October, we have written to you twice with our concerns about a massive Russian violation and circumvention of an arms control obligation to the United States of great significance to this nation and to its NATO allies. We are aware that several of our colleagues on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have also written to senior Administration officials about this and other clear examples of Russia's noncompliance with its arms control obligations.

Despite these multiple inquiries, you have not responded to us to assure us of the seriousness with which you and your Administration are handling this matter. Briefings provided by your Administration have agreed with our assessment that Russian actions are serious and troubling, but have failed to offer any assurance of any concrete action to address these Russian actions. Further, reports indicate you continue to seek new negotiations with that state—including through entreaties of your National Security Advisor, who will travel to Moscow on April 15th to convey a personal letter from you to President Putin—and further reductions in the U.S. nuclear deterrent that protects the American people and their allies.

On April 15th, your Administration is required to submit to the Congress its annual report on compliance with arms control obligations to the United States. We expect this report will directly confront the Russian violations and circumventions of this and other treaties as opposed to last year's report. We further ask, again, for your engagement in correcting this behavior. We also seek your commitment not to undertake further reductions to the U.S. nuclear deterrent or extended deterrent until this Russian behavior is corrected. We are in full agreement with your policy as you articulated it in Prague four years ago this month, "[r]ules must be binding. Violations must be punished. Words must mean something."

We ask for your prompt personal reply.

Respectfully,

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services

Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

HPM:tm

cc: The Honorable Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State
The Honorable James R. Clapper, Director of National Intelligence
General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
General C. Robert "Bob" Kehler, USAF, Commander, United States Strategic Command