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

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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.

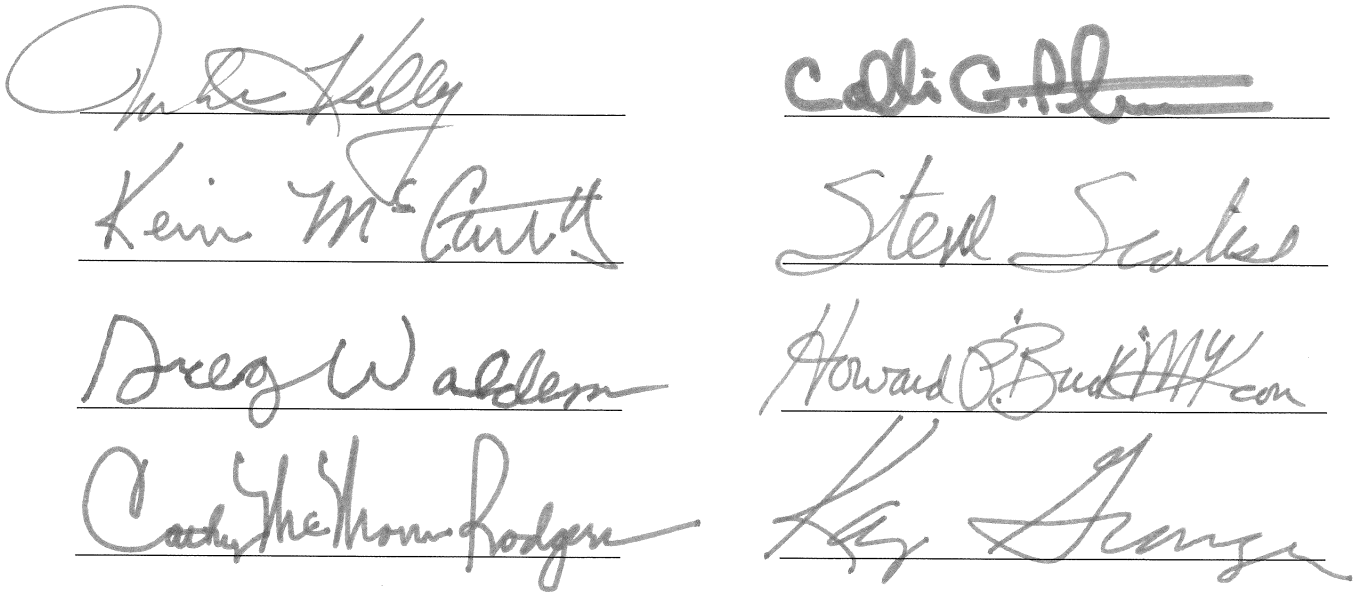
Sixth, the State Department has acknowledged that "specific . . . country concerns, including Taiwan, China, and the Middle East, create challenges for establishing [treaty] criteria that can be applied without exception and fit U.S. national security interests. These concerns would make Senate ratification 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



Mike Ross AR-1

Bill Johnson

CPA

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John Hensarling

John Culberson

Lamar Smith

Bill Owens

[illegible]

Rodney Davis

Deanna Rose-Lehtinen

Ch Bonstany

[illegible]

John Barrow

Peter Sessi

Bob Goodlatte

Virginia Foxx

Joseph R Pitts

Jeff Miller

Michael McCaul

[illegible]

John R Carter

Joe Baxon

J Rady Forbes

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John J Duncan Jr.

Adrian Smith

Lee Terry

Gus M. Bilirakis

[illegible] MJ

Matt Salmon

Robert B Aderholt

Doug Lamborn

Van Rankin

Ed Whitfield

Steve King

Jon T Britt

Louie Gohmert

Mike Simpson

Walter B. Jones

Don Young

Shelley Moore Capito

Steve Chabot

Ralph M. Hall

Beef

Michele Bachman

[illegible]

Trent Franks

Paul C Broun

Mike Cottom

[illegible]

Gary L Miller

Howard Coble

Paul P Price

Reid J Ribble

[illegible]

K. Mintt Conway

Lynn A. [illegible]

Tim Walberg

Bill [illegible]

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Jack Kingston

Tim Murphy

Andy Harris M.D.

Otto Yoder MO-07

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Chuck Fleming

Gregg Harper

Pete Olson

Mike Rogers - AL

TX 36

Tom Marino

TN-04

Tom Cotton

Sam Bell

Cynthia M Lummis

Diane Black

Bob Gibbs

MS4

Jamie B. McTiller

John Fleming

Steve Davis

J. John

Kristi Noem

Trey Radel

Steve Womack

Roger Williams

Stephen Fincher

Chris Collins

Mark Wayne Mullin

H. Morgan Griffith

Bill Cassidy

Mo Brooks

Tom Cotton

[illegible] II

Brad R. Wenstrup

[illegible]

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[illegible]

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[illegible]

Alan Nunnelee

Randy Neugebauer

Bruce Lunsy

David Webbett FL-10

JX-19

Pat Tiberi

Mickey Pompeo

Lou Barletta

Jeff Parman

Blake Farenthold

Joe Heck

[illegible]

Jim Bridenstine

Marsha Blackburn

Mark V. Amodei

Robert Pittenger

Bill Posey

Glenn GT Thompson

Scott Perry

Tim Huelsup

[illegible] (OH-16)

Leonard Lance

Cory Gardner

Kevin Yoder

Scott R. Tipton

Duncan Hunt

Jerry Lentivolio

Keith Rothfus PA-12

Richard Hudson

Paul A. Gosar, DDS AZ-04

Tom Graves

Doug La Malfa

Neil Bragrey

Luke Messer

Jackie Walorski

Randy K. Weber

[illegible]

Dan Benishek MI-01

[illegible]

Austin Scott

Larry Bucshon

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[illegible] OH-15

Doug Collins GA09

Vicky Hartzler

[illegible]

Lynn Jenkins

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Cl W. Dut	[illegible]
John Kline	Tony Wilson
Mac Thornberry	Ted S. Yoho
Frank D. Lucas	Ann Wagner MO-02
Ken Calvert	David P. Roe
Brett Guthrie	[illegible]
Andy Barr	[illegible]
Rob Woodall	[illegible] FL-11
Thomas [illegible]	[illegible]
Jane Camp	

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5. Greg Walden OR-02
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27. Rodney Davis IL-13
28. Marlin Stutzman IN-03
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30. John Carter TX-31
31. Joe Barton TX-06
32. Vern Buchanan FL-16
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39. Adrian Smith NE-03
40. Louie Gohmert TX-01
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42. Mike Simpson ID-02
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45. Michael Burgess TX-26
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49. Robert Aderholt AL-04
50. Steve Chabot OH-01
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62. Blaine Luetkemeyer MO-03
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64. Bob Latta OH-05
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66. Jack Kingston GA-01
67. Gary Miller CA-31
68. Tim Murphy PA-18
69. Howard Coble NC-06
70. Andy Harris MD-01
71. David Joyce OH-14
72. Billy Long MO-07
73. Reid Ribble WI-08
74. Mark Meadows NC-11
75. Dennis Ross FL-15
76. Chuck Fleischmann TN-03
77. Kevin Brady TX-08
78. Gregg Harper MS-03
79. Rob Bishop UT-01
80. Pete Olson TX-22
81. Chris Stewart UT-02
82. Mike Rogers AL-03
83. Bob Gibbs OH-07
84. Steve Stockman TX-36
85. Steven Palazzo MS-04
86. Tom Marino PA-10
87. David McKinley WV-01
88. Scott DesJarlais TN-04
89. John Fleming LA-04
90. Tom Cotton AR-04
91. James Lankford OK-05
92. Scott Rigell VA-02

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94. Cynthia Lummis WY-AL
95. Jim Jordan OH-04
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97. Kristi Noem SD-AL
98. Trey Radel FL-19
99. Steve Womack AR-03
100. Roger Williams TX-25
101. Stephen Fincher TN-08
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103. Markwayne Mullin OK-02
104. Morgan Griffith VA-09
105. Bill Cassidy LA-06
106. Mo Brooks AL-05
107. Tim Griffin AR-02
108. Steve Southerland FL-02
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110. Paul Cook CA-08
111. Adam Kinzinger IL-16
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113. David Schweikert AZ-06
114. Doc Hastings WA-04
115. Alan Nunnelee MS-01
116. Randy Neugebauer TX-19
117. Kevin Cramer ND-AL
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119. Pat Tiberi OH-12
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122. Glenn Thompson PA-05
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124. Scott Perry PA-04
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127. Blake Farenthold TX-27
128. Jim Renacci OH-16
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130. Leonard Lance NJ-07
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132. Cory Gardner CO-04
133. Jim Bridenstine OK-01
134. Kevin Yoder KS-03
135. Marsha Blackburn TN-07
136. Scott Tipton CO-03
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138. Duncan Hunter CA-50
139. Robert Pittenger NC-09
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142. Richard Hudson NC-08
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144. Tom Graves GA-14
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148. Jackie Walorski IN-02
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164. Spencer Bachus AL-06
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166. Joe Wilson SC-02
167. Mac Thornberry TX-13
168. Ted Yoho FL-03
169. Frank Lucas OK-03
170. Ann Wagner MO-02
171. Ken Calvert CA-42
172. Phil Roe TN-01
173. Brett Guthrie KY-02
174. Aaron Schock IL-18
175. Andy Barr KY-06
176. Jeff Denham CA-10
177. Rob Woodall GA-07
178. Rich Nugent FL-11
179. Tom Price GA-06
180. Patrick Meehan PA-07
181. Dave Camp MI-04