



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

December 20, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Since Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the world has witnessed, again, the devastating consequences of cluster munitions. Preliminary data collected by the Cluster Munition Monitor 2022 has documented at least 689 reported casualties due to cluster munition attacks in Ukraine in the first half of 2022 alone.

In a special United Nations meeting on March 2, 2022, UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield criticized Russia's invasion of Ukraine in part for using cluster munitions, which she said have "no place on the battlefield." Shortly thereafter, her speech was revised, removing that phrase, because the United States itself has yet to renounce these weapons. It is time for the United States to become a leader in banning cluster munitions which have a long history of causing disproportionate and indiscriminate harm to civilians.

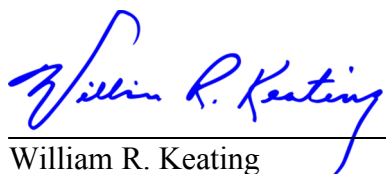
While we welcome your administration's recent review of, and improvements to, U.S. policy on anti-personnel landmines, and support for policies related to the protection of civilians in conflict more broadly, we have seen no indication of a similar review regarding cluster munitions. As a first step, we urge you to review your administration's cluster munitions policy and revise the Department of Defense's (DoD) *2017 Policy on Cluster Munitions*, with the goal of banning these weapons. Additionally, we urge you to expedite the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions, whose destruction was initiated by President George W. Bush.

Recognizing the harm these munitions cause, the United States is by far the world's leading supporter of efforts to clear unexploded cluster munitions from battlefields and to aid the victims. In Laos, these efforts are addressing DoD's past use of the weapons, which continue to kill and maim civilians and make land inaccessible, 50 years later.

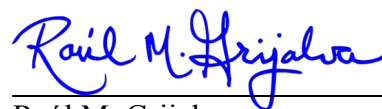
The United States last used cluster munitions during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, except for a single attack in Yemen in December 2009. We have not exported cluster munitions of any kind since 2015 and they are no longer produced by any American company.

Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield was right. If the United States used cluster munitions today we would be criticized as we have condemned the Russians for using them in Ukraine. We should be leading the global effort to rid the world of these weapons, not continuing to stockpile them. The Convention on Cluster Munitions, which bans the weapons entirely, is supported by a majority of our NATO allies and 110 countries worldwide. We urge you to promptly order a review of U.S. policy on cluster munitions with the goal of halting their use, production, export, and stockpiling and putting the United States on a path to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions by a date certain.

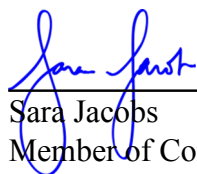
Sincerely,



William R. Keating
Member of Congress
Chair, Subcommittee on
Europe, Energy, the
Environment, and Cyber



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



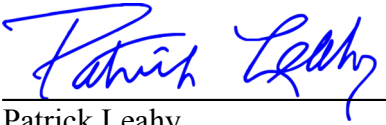
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator