United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 30, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bob Corker
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Schumer, Chairman Corker, and Ranking Member Menendez,

We urge you to request a commitment from the Trump Administration to sustained engagement with Congress throughout the upcoming direct negotiations with North Korea over its nuclear and missile programs. We respectfully request that you ask the Administration to provide a briefing for all interested Senators on its strategy for negotiation prior to any Trump-Kim summit, including senior officials from the Departments of Defense, State, Energy, and Treasury, and representatives from the Intelligence Community. We further ask that you request monthly subsequent briefings to ensure that Congress is fully informed as any potential negotiations proceed.

As Senators who strongly support a diplomatic solution to freeze and ultimately denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, we believe that the White House's steady and substantive communication with Congress must be a part of the Administration's efforts to produce a successful diplomatic outcome that ensures the security of the United States and our allies.

There is recent historical precedent for the White House keeping Congress consistently informed during delicate international negotiations. During the long, tough, and technically complex negotiations between the United States, its allies and partners, and Iran to secure the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in July 2015, the Obama Administration held frequent classified briefings for members of Congress, answered questions regularly in hearings before congressional committees, and provided regular briefings to appropriately cleared Congressional staff. We believe the Trump Administration should commit to this level of engagement with Congress for the duration of its talks with North Korea.

As was the case with Iran, Congress has played a significant role in shaping U.S. policy toward North Korea. It was Congress that authored a series of tough sanctions on North Korea, notably the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 and the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017. These measures, passed overwhelmingly and on a bipartisan basis, represent an effective non-military tool of American power that has imposed significant costs on the Kim regime and influenced its strategic calculus in favor of dialogue over its nuclear and missile programs. Congress must remain well-informed throughout any talks with the Kim regime particularly if an agreement requires the removal of sanctions as an inducement to North Korea taking steps toward denuclearization.

We welcome the Trump Administration's pursuit of diplomacy to address the threat posed by a nuclear-armed North Korea, and we strongly hope for success. The more the White House engages with Congress on its progress in negotiations, the more effective partner that Congress can be to support a peaceful resolution to this crisis. Therefore, we ask that you call on the Trump Administration to commit to a

sustained engagement with Congress during the Trump-Kim summit and throughout any follow-on negotiations. Working with Congress and our regional allies, we hope the United States can secure a meaningful agreement to address the threat of a nuclear-armed North Korea in a manner that enhances the security of the United States, our allies, and the world.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

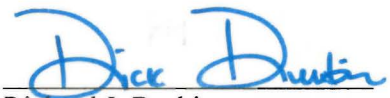
Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

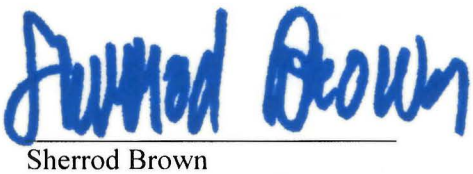
Bill Nelson
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

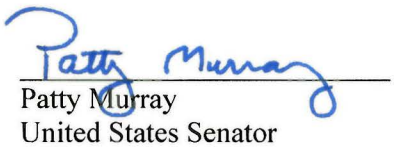
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



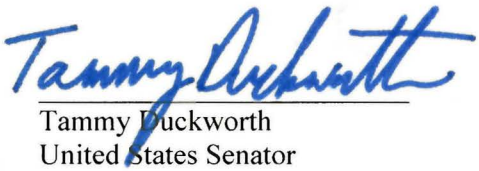
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator

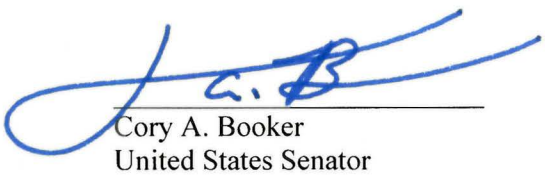


Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

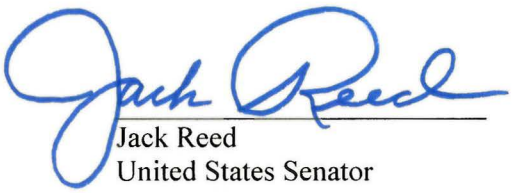
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

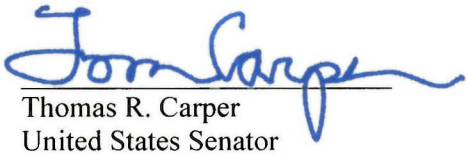


Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

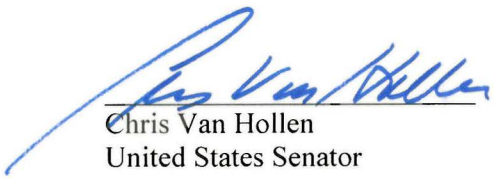


Jack Reed
United States Senator

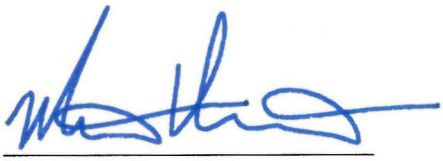
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator