

*WASHINGTON, DC (December 9, 2010) – Today Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), a member the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, sent a letter to the U.S. Senate Republican leadership urging swift passage of the New START Treaty. Sixty-eight House members have added their names to this letter.*

“The New START treaty has been awaiting Senate consideration for eight months and has been the subject of 21 hearings, yet the Senate Republican leadership continues to stonewall its ratification.

“I am very concerned that failure to ratify New START will threaten the substantial progress we have made to build an international nuclear non-proliferation regime, to bolster our national security and to assure the security of Israel and our other vital allies.

"Further delay in New START ratification jeopardizes our relations with Russia, including the progress we have made bringing the Russians into international efforts to implement and maintain strong sanctions against Iran. The longer the Senate delays, the greater the risk of undermining the effort to stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability. That is a very unwise risk to take. Quick action by the Senate to ratify New Start is necessary to stymie Iran's nuclear ambitions."