



Dear fellow member of Mayors for Peace,

Please join me in sponsoring this year's Mayors for Peace resolution, Calling *for U.S. Leadership in Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Redirection of Military Spending to Domestic Needs*, to be considered at the U.S. Conference of Mayors annual meeting in Las Vegas, June 21 - 24. The text of the resolution follows.

On a positive note, several important new opportunities for President Obama to advance his Prague agenda for a world without nuclear weapons have opened up. The resolution describes these new international disarmament forums and calls on the President and the U.S. government to demonstrate good faith by participating constructively.

Unfortunately, as documented in the resolution, nearly a quarter of a century past the end of the Cold War, an estimated 17,300 nuclear weapons, 94% of them in the possession of the United States and Russia, continue to pose an intolerable threat to humanity. And large spending on programs to modernize U.S. nuclear weapons systems are underway.

Nuclear weapons spending is emblematic of Pentagon spending. In 2012, during a time of continuing domestic financial hardship, the U.S. spent \$682 billion on its military, accounting for nearly two-fifths of the world total.

As we mayors know all too well, the budget sequester enacted in March is impeding the economic recovery in cities by making deep cuts to vital federal programs. In contrast, Pentagon spending has grown by 50% in real dollars in the last 12 years, not including war spending, and nearly all of the "cuts" up for debate are, in reality, reductions in the spending growth rate.

I believe that our nation's deep economic crisis can only be addressed by adopting new priorities to create a sustainable economy for the 21st century. To that end, the resolution calls on the President and Congress to terminate funding for nuclear weapons modernization, and to properly balance military spending with spending to reinvest in programs to provide basic human services, create jobs, rebuild infrastructure and meet the needs of America's cities.

I invite you to join me in sponsoring this important and timely resolution.

To add your name, please contact my Deputy Mayor, Rick Merolla at RMerolla@akronohio.gov and Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator Jackie Cabasso at jackie@2020visioncampaign.org.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

**Donald L. Plusquellic, Mayor of Akron, Ohio
Vice-President, Mayors for Peace**