

United States Senate

August 12, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

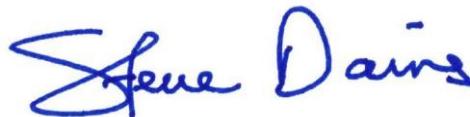
Dear President Biden,

I write regarding recent reports that your Administration has directed the Pentagon to halt its ongoing efforts to replenish our strategic nuclear arsenal and instead await the findings of a months-long, independent study under the guise of saving taxpayer dollars. This policy reversal contradicts the advice of your own experts and duplicates research already conducted by the Air Force, all while weakening our national security posture. I urge you to rescind this misguided directive.

As you know, the viability of further extending the service life of our Minuteman III missiles has been studied extensively by the U.S. Air Force, and was a major consideration during the Analysis of Alternatives (AOA) conducted during the early development phases of the Ground Base Strategic Deterrent. The Air Force concluded that further extending the life of the Minuteman III, which has already exceeded its planned 10-year service life by 500%, would be more expensive and less effective in assuring the defense of our nation. Officials—both civilian appointees and uniformed leadership—from your own Administration have testified before this Congress on the importance of modernizing our nuclear deterrence enterprise and unanimously agree that any further delays to the GBSD development timeline will create substantial gaps in our overall national security.

This latest development at the behest of far-left special interest groups is nothing more than a thinly-veiled attempt to scuttle the ground-based leg of the nuclear triad on ideological grounds. I urge you to reconsider the facts already before you provided by our nation's top experts. There is simply no need for this misguided effort, which makes our country less safe.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator