Mr. Chairman, I have the distinct honor to represent

several military installations in my State of North Dakota, including

the Minot Air Force Base, the home of the 91st Missile Wing and the 5th

Bomber Wing, which relates to the amendment I have to offer today.

The amendment, which I offer today, along with my colleagues Mrs.

Lummis of Wyoming and Mr. Denny Rehberg of Montana, is very

straightforward. It prohibits the fiscal year 2013 funds from being

used to implement plans under the New START Treaty to reduce the number

of nuclear weapons and their delivery system, which significantly

reduces America's ability to develop and use our nuclear defense

capabilities.

We all know that during the 2010 lame duck session the Senate

ratified the New START Treaty, and President Obama made a promise to

Congress that as long as he was President we will continue to invest in

nuclear modernization.

Mr. Chairman, since then, he has backed away from his promise, and we

all heard the President's unsettling off-mike comments that he would

have more flexibility after the November elections.

The treaty provides for 7 years for the United States and Russia to

reduce the number of deployed ICBMs, deployed submarine-launched

ballistic missiles and deployed heavy bombers equipped to carry nuclear

armaments to no more than 700 weapons.

I know that many of us may not agree on the appropriate level of

deployed nuclear weapons or our view on the New START Treaty. However,

we need to make one thing clear: nowhere in the New START Treaty does

it require reductions from the United States to make these cuts prior

to fiscal year or during fiscal year 2013.

Furthermore, we're still waiting on the administration to tell us

exactly how sharp the cuts in our deployed nuclear weapons could be

under the New START Treaty.

The Associated Press has reported the Obama administration is going

beyond the level laid out in the New START Treaty and is considering as

much as an 80-percent reduction in our current nuclear arsenal.

It appears that the administration is planning drastic cuts to our

nuclear arsenal and could be planning to move away from our nuclear

triad strategy altogether. All three legs of our Nation's nuclear triad

are complementary to the defense of our Nation.

Drastic cuts in our overall level of our Nation's nuclear arsenal

puts our national security at risk and sharp reductions to any one leg

of the nuclear triad would destabilize a sound defense strategy.

Therefore, since the President made an agreement to modernize our

arsenal, and Congress is still waiting to hear what those specifics

are, Congress should not provide funding to facilitate these

reductions.

I urge adoption of these amendments.