

A Petition for the MA Congressional Delegation to Lead Efforts Towards US Signing and Ratifying the 2008 United Nations Convention on Cluster Munitions

“Historically, sensor-fuzed weapon sales have relied on foreign military and direct commercial international customers for which both executive branch and congressional approval is required. The current political environment has made it difficult to obtain these approvals.”

“Textron Systems [is] to discontinue production of its sensor-fuzed weapon product” - from Textron Inc. SEC filing (August 30, 2016)

- Deeply concerned by the serious questions “regarding the reliability” (McGrath, 2008) of cluster munitions in the operational theater of war,
- Pleased by the recent announcement by Textron Incorporated, the last U.S. producer of cluster munitions, that the company will discontinue its production of “sensor-fused weapon product[s]” as of March 2017,
- Recognizing the recent cessation of cluster munitions shipments by the U.S. to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is involved in a violent military campaign within the Republic of Yemen,
- Recognizing the Obama Administration’s latest efforts to rectify the unexploded cluster munitions situation in the country of Lao People’s Democratic Republic, once the target of a large scale U.S. military campaign utilizing such weapons,
- Encouraged by the 100 countries that have already signed and ratified the 2008 United Nations Convention on Cluster Munitions, including our largest regional neighbors, Canada and Mexico, as well as most of the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO),
- Dedicated to the ongoing advancement of global peace and security through a concerted effort of strategic arms reduction in the United States,

We, the undersigned citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, petition the members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation to:

- Lead the effort towards securing President Obama’s signature upon the 2008 United Nations Convention on Cluster Munitions,
- Support Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey as they lead the effort to secure ratification of the 2008 United Nations Convention on Cluster Munitions in the U.S. Senate,
- Promote the advancement of global peace and security by encouraging all nations to sign and/or ratify the 2008 United Nations Convention on Cluster Munitions and strongly condemning the ongoing proliferation and use of cluster munitions and/or any similar weapons platform by any country during military conflicts.

Name (printed)	Address	Signature	District

Please send to owlih@comcast.net or Ian Harrington, Friends Meeting at Cambridge, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge, MA 02138 by Monday 7th November 2016.

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