

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**Hearing on Tauscher Nomination**  
**Opening Statement by Senator Richard G. Lugar**  
**June 9, 2009**

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## **Opening Statement for Tauscher Nomination Hearing**

*U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Republican leader Dick Lugar made the following statement at today's hearing:*

Today, the Committee will consider the nomination of Representative Ellen Tauscher to be the next Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. If confirmed, the nominee would be responsible for addressing the number one national security threat facing our country - the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In addition, the nominee would construct arms control strategies, render judgments on conventional weapons sales to foreign governments, implement export controls, and develop policies on missile defense and security assistance. Her work would be a critical element of the U.S. government's response to the proliferation and nuclear security issues related to North Korea, Iran, Pakistan, and many other nations.

Two weeks ago, I participated in the opening ceremony of the Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility at Shchuchye, Russia. Shchuchye represents one of the most dangerous proliferation risks in history. When the project started, 1.9 million chemical munitions were stacked like wine bottles in poorly guarded, ramshackle wooden structures. During a visit to Shchuchye in 1999, a Russian major took my photograph demonstrating how one of the munitions stored at Shchuchye - an 85mm shell filled with nerve gas - could be carried in a simple brief case. That one shell could have killed tens of thousands of people if detonated in an enclosed area, such as a stadium.

Despite the intense threat posed by these weapons, it took fifteen years of painstaking effort to get to this point. All involved had to overcome a thicket of political, legal, bureaucratic, logistical, and engineering issues that threatened at multiple points to derail or delay the project. The contributions of several other countries besides the United States and Russia had to be integrated into the plans. Moreover, the Shchuchye project would not have been possible without Russian and American ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1997. Thankfully, all these elements occurred over the course of several administrations so that we now have reached a point at Shchuchye where the nerve gas is being neutralized shell by shell.

I reflect on this experience to illustrate that non-proliferation and arms control achievements do not happen solely through Presidential declaration. They depend on negotiations with difficult countries and unglamorous implementation work often carried out in remote environments without much public appreciation or understanding. The policy directives of the President, cabinet secretaries, and undersecretaries are important, but they do not guarantee success. Policymakers also must be diligent managers who ensure that negotiators, bureaucrats, and technicians at every level of our government are working effectively to achieve results.

I look forward to hearing from Representative Tauscher on the priority she plans to assign to the Nunn-Lugar program and its partner efforts in the State and Energy Departments and how she will transition U.S. policy to counter emerging threats.

With respect to arms control negotiations, our most time-sensitive agenda item is the preservation of the START Treaty. On December 5, the verification regime that undergirds the START Treaty will expire. The Moscow Treaty, which reduces deployed warheads to 1,700, would also be a casualty because it utilizes the START process. In other words, the foundation of the U.S.-Russian strategic relationship is at risk of collapsing before the end of the year. I am following closely the efforts of our negotiating team in Geneva led by Assistant Secretary Rose Gottemoeller.

Beyond START, action on several steps would improve the prospects for a successful NPT Review Conference scheduled for next Spring in New York. These steps include jumpstarting talks on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty; correcting funding shortfalls related to the Chemical Weapons Convention; applying U.S. leadership to refurbishing the IAEA's decrepit verification capabilities and safeguard system; and making progress in establishing a nuclear fuel bank.

Representative Tauscher has served for years in the House of Representatives, where she has played a role in the formulation of legislation regarding the safety and security of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, arms control, and other issues directly relevant to her nomination. She has represented a congressional district that contains the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, so she comes to us today with an extensive nuclear background.

On May 20, I sent 61 pre-hearing questions to Representative Tauscher. I appreciate her diligence in answering these questions. Her answers were posted on my website (<http://lugar.senate.gov/sfrc/pdf/TauscherQFR.pdf>) last week so that all members would have an opportunity to review them.

I welcome Representative Tauscher to the Foreign Relations Committee and look forward to our discussion of critical issues facing our country.

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