

For Immediate Release
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Location: Cong. Marcy Kaptur's Toledo office, One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio

Time: 11:30 a.m. Eastern time, June 22, 2022

AREA ANTIWAR ACTIVISTS SEEK KAPTUR SUPPORT FOR TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition, a grassroots peace and justice group in the greater Toledo area, will rally outside Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's Toledo office on June 22, 2022 to demand her support for federal legislation that would require the United States to sign the global Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and to take steps through her chairmanship of a key Congressional subcommittee to reduce the spread of nuclear weapons material worldwide.'

Activists will gather outside Ms. Kaptur's Toledo office at ***One Maritime Plaza on Water Street in downtown Toledo (behind WTOL Channel 11 studios) at 11:30 a.m. on June 22 to publicize and deliver a letter*** seeking the Congresswoman's actions to have the Biden Administration commit to sign the TPNW and for her to co-sponsor and vote for H.R. 2850, the "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2021," which would require the United States Government to sign and ratify the TPNW. The treaty requires the elimination of all nuclear weapons everywhere and the redirection of the billions of dollars freed up by weapons elimination to human and infrastructure needs. Presently, 86 countries have become signatories to the treaty, and 65 countries have formally ratified it.

The First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) to the TPNW is occurring this week in Vienna, Austria. Participating governments hope to respond to the recent threats of use of nuclear weapons and the increased risk of nuclear conflict. As Chair of the important House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, Congresswoman Kaptur is in a unique position to block legislation appropriating billions of taxpayer dollars to promote next-generation nuclear power plants that will increase the spread of nuclear weapons; to expand the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile; and which will take away resources needed for a transition toward safer, more secure, healthier, and more environmentally protective alternatives for power and defense.

"Many of us have watched the drift toward a nuclear weapons confrontation between the U.S. and Russia with growing anxiety," said Susan Kuehn, one of the convenors of NWOPC. "We call on Congresswoman Kaptur to step up to stop the nuclear weapons madness, using her powerful role in Congressional budgeting. We must urgently redirect considerable money into the development and deployment of sustainable carbon-free and nuclear-free energy sources,

health care, housing, education, agriculture, and environmental restoration.”

“We also want to enlist Ms. Kaptur to promote policies that will convince other countries to commit to the TPNW to create a more peaceful and secure world,” said Terry Lodge, another NWOPC leader. “This very week, Congresswoman Kaptur’s subcommittee is holding hearings on how much to spend on next-generation nuclear power reactors, called Small Modular Reactors, which are a boondoggle technology that won’t be developed quickly enough to help stem climate deterioration, pose the threat of making plutonium and other nuclear weapons material available on the global black market so even more countries can have The Bomb, and will create much more nuclear waste with all its dangers.”

The NWOPC members here today support of the first meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We call upon the United States and the other eight nuclear-armed states to attend the First Meeting and future meetings as observers, to bear witness to the need for nuclear disarmament and to take these first steps toward signing, ratifying, and implementing the Treaty.

The NWOPC will present the original request letter to Ms. Kaptur’s Toledo office staff and will electronically transmit a copy to her Washington office on June 22.