

LES AUCOIN
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
March 23, 1983

Dear Friend:

I am writing to you today, out of a sense of urgency, because the Nuclear Freeze resolution pending before Congress has hit a snag -- a serious snag -- and I want to ask for your immediate help.

The House of Representatives spent 13 hours debating the freeze until midnight last Wednesday. We did not succeed in passing the resolution because our opponents mounted an attack by filibuster, offering a string of amendments to either gut the bill, or extend the debate endlessly.

As a result, the debate has been delayed until after the Easter recess when Congress resumes April 5.

I do want you to know that support for the freeze is very strong. We won two test votes on the floor by a comfortable margin of 60 votes -- a real tribute to the power of your grassroots work.

But on one vote, the margin was only 6 votes. This amendment was offered by Mr. Siljander of Michigan. It would have in essence given the President a green light to continue his weapons buildup while working on reductions. For your attention, I am enclosing a copy of the vote. A "No" vote is a pro-freeze vote.

Between now and the resumption of the debate, I fully anticipate the President will launch a new attack on the freeze, and he may try to undermine Congressional support for the freeze by announcing a new bargaining position on arms reductions.

You, and millions of other Americans, got Congress this far. Last year, we lost by only two votes. I urge you to step up your efforts. Urge your friends in other states to contact their representatives over the Easter break. Write to those who voted "Yes" on the Siljander amendment. I still believe the freeze will pass once we get it to a final vote. But this is no time to let the momentum subside. What the President does between now and then could be crucial. But what you and your friends do can be decisive.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Les".

LES AUCOIN
Member of Congress

LA/mg