

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 09, 2009 10:03 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** FW: Hold on Tauscher by Kyl

FYI – See article below

**From:** Mull, Stephen D  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 09, 2009 6:42 PM  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D; Verma, Richard R; Rodriguez, Miguel E  
**Subject:** FW: Hold on Tauscher by Kyl

FYI. Ellen in fact had a meeting scheduled with Kyl tomorrow to brief him in depth about these issues, but he canceled it just before making this announcement and has shown no interest in rescheduling.

**From:** Simon Limage [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 09, 2009 5:30 PM  
**To:** Mull, Stephen D; Rodriguez, Miguel E  
**Subject:** Hold

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#### CQ TODAY PRINT EDITION – FOREIGN POLICY

June 9, 2009 – Updated 3:27 p.m.

### **Tauscher Wins Plaudits From Panel, But Still Faces Hold**

By Caitlin Webber, CQ Staff

California Democratic Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher enjoyed an enthusiastic reception from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday, but a senior Republican said she'll be blocked from quick floor consideration.

Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., said he plans to place a hold on the Tauscher nomination as soon as it is reported out of the committee, as leverage to get information and assurances from the Obama administration on issues including — but not limited to — nuclear reduction talks with Russia and the deployment of ballistic missile defense.

“All I’m going to ask for is for the administration to abide by commitments that it has made, which one would think it could easily do,” said Kyl. He declined to reveal the specifics of the assurances he is seeking.

As the White House’s top arms control adviser, Tauscher would be charged with pushing for ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and a follow-on to the expiring Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with Russia.

Tauscher, chairwoman of the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee, would have to contend with considerable push-back from Senate Republicans to implement either treaty.

Many treaty opponents argue the test-ban could undermine the U.S. capacity to deter other nations from using nuclear weapons.

She said Tuesday that numerous advances have been made in test-ban verification procedures and ensuring the safety of the U.S. stockpile since the Senate rejected ratification of the CTBT nearly 10 years ago.

“Stopping nuclear proliferation by protecting our stockpile, maintaining the credibility of our deterrent and preventing terrorists from getting a hold of a weapon of mass destruction has become my life’s work,” she told the panel Tuesday.

She also said she would back President Obama’s diplomatic efforts to persuade the eight other non-signatories — China, North Korea, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran, Israel and Egypt — to ratify the treaty. Indonesia’s foreign minister said Monday it would ratify the CTBT, which bans all nuclear explosions for any purpose, immediately after the United States does.

Tauscher would need to tackle critics among Senate Republicans who contend the Obama administration is rushing into an agreement on nuclear arms reduction with Russia.

At an Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing last week, Sens. David Vitter, R-La., and Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said it was imprudent for the Obama administration to agree to reduced nuclear warhead levels with Russia before the release of the Defense Department’s Nuclear Posture Review, which sets the course of the nation’s nuclear stockpile, in early 2010. Administration negotiators aim to have a renewed agreement with Russia before the current treaty expires on Dec. 5.

Tauscher told the Senate Foreign Relations panel Tuesday that she would work to allay those concerns. “We can multi-task. . . . I’m confident we can assure everyone . . . that what is going on in the review is informing the negotiations.”

Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass., said he would move Tauscher’s nomination quickly through the committee and would urge the full Senate to follow quickly thereafter.

*Josh Rogin contributed to this story.*

*First posted June 9, 2009 2:28 p.m.*

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