

**STATEMENT OF  
THE HONORABLE DINA TITUS (NV-01)  
MEMBER DAY TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE  
APRIL 15, 2026**

Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Smith,

As you begin your work on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027, I strongly urge you to include a provision to prohibit the United States from conducting explosive testing of nuclear weapons.

Nevada was the focal point of nuclear development during the Cold War. Over four decades, the Nevada Test Site, which is located just 100 miles north of Las Vegas, hosted over 900 nuclear tests – more than any other location in the United States. Throughout the 1950s, visible mushroom clouds often loomed in the distance as people enjoyed all that Las Vegas had to offer. These tests were conducted to better understand the power and effects of nuclear weapons, and the site played a major role in shaping national and international policies regarding nuclear testing and non-proliferation. The radiation given off by the more than 100 atmospheric tests, however, had devastating impacts on those downwind; the fallout caused cancer and premature deaths for thousands across the West. The 800 underground tests sometimes vented radioactive contaminants which entered the air and the groundwater supply, a problem that we are still dealing with in Southern Nevada today.

Despite the devastating toll decades of explosive nuclear testing have taken, on October 29, 2025, Trump announced that he is directing the Department of Defense to resume nuclear testing in a worrisome policy reversal. The result would place us on a collision course of catastrophic proportions with Russia and China, allow the proliferation of these weapons to non-nuclear states that seek its development, and put the health of Nevadans once again in jeopardy. Additionally, there is no technical, national security, or political reason for the U.S. to resume nuclear explosive testing. If a nuclear power resumes testing because the U.S. is abandoning the testing moratorium, those countries will develop new types of warheads and close the scientific and technical advantage we have always enjoyed in weapons design. It would be a net detriment to U.S. national security. Furthermore, at the Nevada National Security Site, scientists do groundbreaking experiments and simulations on our existing stockpile to make sure our nuclear

arsenal is safe, secure, and reliable. These sub-critical tests are done without an explosion of any kind.

The last time a nuclear bomb was tested was in 2017 by North Korea. That test was 3,146 days ago – the longest period of time since 1945 we have gone without a nuclear test. Is the U.S. really going to be the one to break that streak? After decades of leadership in the nonproliferation and arms control space, that would be a travesty.

For these reasons, I introduced my RESTRAIN Act to prohibit the resumption of explosive nuclear testing and prevent any funds from going toward this misguided policy. My bill is endorsed by several organizations focused on decreasing the risk of nuclear conflict, including the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Arms Control Association. Real security does not come from more nuclear explosions, but from recommitting ourselves to the testing moratorium. This is something that Congress must assert in light of the Executive's policy reversal. My bill is the way to accomplish this goal, further global nonproliferation objectives, and prevent a twenty-first century arms race that would threaten the health and safety of all of our constituents.

I respectfully ask this Committee to consider my RESTRAIN Act for inclusion in the FY27 NDAA as a way to ensure the United States maintains its technical superiority in warhead design and prevent a catastrophic nuclear confrontation.

I know you have a difficult task ahead of you as you make critical decisions pertaining to national security, and I thank you for your consideration.