PETITION TO REDUCE MILITARY SPENDING

TO THE HONOURABLE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

The petition of the undersigned shows Australian opposition to the amount of money spent on Australia's military force and to the quality of military capabilities that are being bought. In 2010-11, the Federal Government is spending an estimated $32 billion on defence, approximately 10% of its disposable income. Considered one of the safest countries worldwide, Australia is the 6th largest per capita spender on the military, and its military budget has increased by 50.2% in the past decade. With these billions of dollars, Australia is buying "offensive" capabilities, such as off-shore power projection and precision strike, that are potentially perceived by regional states as threatening and provocative, helping to fuel the regional arms race.

Your petitioners request the Senate to support:

1. *An immediate 10% reduction in military spending on weapons systems that increase Australia's off-shore power projection;*
2. *A comprehensive and open review of Australia's defence policy and defence spending (involving a broad selection of researchers in peace and foreign affairs as well as defence strategists), followed by a period of strenuous public debate.*

Name	Address	Signature

Please return to Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition, PO Box A899, Sydney South, NSW 1235. Website www.anti-bases.org. Email: denis@anti-bases.org