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May 22 1984
United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

April 30, 1984

Mr. Paul E. Healy
City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the Cambridge City Council's resolution concerning chemical warfare and the manufacture of nerve gas.

I believe the use of chemical weapons is one of the most abhorrent and inhuman methods of warfare known to man. And we are on the brink of a weapons race in chemical munitions. We must work for a verifiable, mutual ban on these horrible weapons.

Throughout my tenure in the Senate, I have been vigorously opposed to chemical munitions productions. I believe that such actions only jeopardize the possibility for a lasting ban on chemical warfare. I have long urged the Reagan Administration to pursue sincere and determined negotiations, but with no success.

On two occasions last year the Senate voted to uphold the funding for nerve gas production. I cosponsored one amendment to eliminate funding, and voted in both cases against nerve gas. On both votes, however, the pro-nerve gas side prevailed by a single vote, with Vice President Bush breaking the tie after the Senate deadlocked.

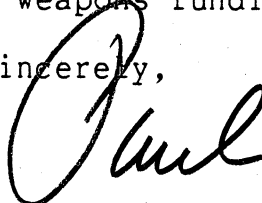
As you may know, the Senate retained \$33 million for research and development on offensive binary chemical weapons, and an additional \$18 million for their production. The House voted to delete nerve gas funding from its Defense bill. I am pleased to report that, when the House and Senate conferees met on the bill, all the money requested for nerve gas was rejected. This was a major victory both for arms control and for reasoned military planning.

But the fight is not over yet. The Reagan Administration pushed hard for chemical weapons last year and will no doubt try again during this year's Congressional session. I want you to know that I will continue to vote against and voice my opposition to nerve gas funding.

Mr. Paul E. Healy
April 30, 1984
Page 2

Again, thank you for contacting me. I understand your vital concern with this issue and I trust that you are as pleased as I am with the defeat of chemical weapons funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul", written in black ink.

PAUL E. TSONGAS
United States Senator

PET/jfy

S-384

Comm. from Senator Paul Tsongas in acknowl-
edgement & appreciation of resolutions
adopted by the City Council Re: chemical
warfare & the manufacture of nerve gas.

In City Council,

June 4, 1984

6/4/1984

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