



James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies
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CNS Director Highlights the Need for U.S. Export Control Policy Reform that Addresses Nonproliferation Realities

In his State of the Union address on January 27, 2010, President Barack Obama stated that his administration was launching an initiative that would reform the U.S. export control system “consistent with national security.” Industry leaders have applauded his comments.

The Director of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Dr. William Potter, stated in recent testimony that U.S. export controls should be improved to further reinforce the international nonproliferation regime and better reflect the challenges posed by emerging technologies and a changing global economy. In this testimony before a field hearing for the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives, Dr. Potter called attention to the need to devise more effective controls focused on WMD nonproliferation, increase funding for export control enforcement, and explore new remedies for export control violations. Dr. Potter suggested that U.S. export control reform make a distinction between controls that target WMD-relevant items and those that cover the “much larger body of dual-use strategic goods unrelated to WMD.” Additionally, Dr. Potter emphasized the importance of increasing nonproliferation education and awareness in both public and private sectors. To support this, Congress is encouraged to pass a National Nonproliferation Education Act.

Dr. Potter concluded that: “A sound U.S. approach to nonproliferation export controls requires a two-pronged approach: (1) recognition and retention of those aspects of the system that have performed well, and (2) introduction of new features that will enhance economic competitiveness and information and technology flow without weakening the international nonproliferation regime.”

Dr. Potter’s complete written testimony can be accessed at:

http://www.cns.miis.edu/testimony/pdfs/potter_william_testimony_100115.pdf

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