Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you on behalf of NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION a member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

We are horrified by your Administration’s decision to cancel the previous US policy of eliminating all antipersonnel landmines.

In light of near universal acceptance of the ban on antipersonnel landmines and the US not having used antipersonnel landmines for nearly three decades, this new policy is a shocking reversal of US policy that could cause further loss of civilian limbs and lives. This is unacceptable and goes against basic universally accepted humanitarian principles.

We are calling on your Administration to reconsider this step and to uphold the previous US policy which banned US production and acquisition of antipersonnel mines as well as their use outside of a future conflict on the Korean Peninsula, and which committed the US to the goal of joining the 164 States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT).

The US has been in compliance with the MBT key prohibitions for more than twenty years. It has not used antipersonnel landmines since 1991, has not exported the weapon since 1992 and has not produced it since 1997. It has destroyed millions of stockpiled mines. The US is the world’s largest contributor to mine clearance and victim assistance programs.

So-called “non-persistent” or “smart mines” equipped with self-destruct and self-deactivating mechanisms that the US now retains the right to use indefinitely anywhere in the world, under the new policy, still pose humanitarian dangers and are by no means safe for civilians. Therefore, they are prohibited under the MBT.

Conversely, the political costs of the US using antipersonnel mines today would be very high. Key US allies have already joined the MBT.

Lastly, acceding to the Treaty would reinforce the US image as a country committed to IHL and protection of civilians, whereas this new policy is triggering an outcry.