

## A PLEA FOR REFLECTION



*First Lady Laura Bush planned to host a celebration of American poetry at the White House on February 12. Instead, she cancelled the "Poetry and the American Voice" symposium after she learned that several prominent poets declined her invitation in protest against the U.S. push toward war in Iraq.*

In the face of so much opposition from U.N. members, despite the disapproval of the vast majority of citizens of the world, in defiance of the advice of its own intelligence agencies, and contrary to both common sense and fundamental notions of morality, the Bush administration seems to be headed for war in Iraq.

Over the past two weeks, more than 8,000 poets have submitted poems or personal statements to register their opposition to this war. In doing so, they honor a long and rich tradition of thoughtful and moral opposition by poets and other artists to senseless and murderous policies, including those of our own government. At no time in history have so many poets spoken in such a large chorus.

We call upon the Bush administration to halt its headlong rush toward war, to heed the voices of the people of the world, and to seek peaceful means of resolving conflicts in company with the world community.

ADRIENNE RICH	JANE HIRSHFIELD	ROBERT CREELEY
ARTHUR SZE	JOHN BALABAN	RUTH STONE
CAROLYN KIZER	LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI	SAM HAMILL
ELEANOR WILNER	MARILYN HACKER	SIMON ORTIZ
GALWAY KINNELL	MARK DOTY	STANLEY KUNITZ
GRACE PALEY	MARTÍN ESPADA	W.S. MERWIN
GRACE SCHULMAN	MARVIN BELL	WANDA COLEMAN
HAYDEN CARRUTH	ROBERT BLY	YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA

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### *Thousands of Poets, One Voice*

*To submit a poem or learn more about our ongoing efforts, visit us online at:*

[poetsagainsthewar.org](http://poetsagainsthewar.org)