

Resolve 7-18/19
Passage: 9-0 on 1/23/2019

Effective 2/2/2019

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**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CONGRESS ACT TO
PROTECT PORTLAND CITIZENS FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

WHEREAS, global arsenals have approximately 14,400 nuclear weapons, and most are far more destructive than those that killed hundreds of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945; and

WHEREAS, the detonation of even a small number of these weapons anywhere in the world could have catastrophic human and environmental consequences that could affect everyone on the planet including the residents of Portland, Maine; and

WHEREAS, a large scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage, producing conditions wherein the vast majority of the human race would starve and mankind might possibly become extinct as a species; and

WHEREAS, the United States maintains nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert, capable of being launched within minutes after only a presidential order, which greatly increases the risk of an accidental, mistaken or unauthorized launch; and

WHEREAS, the United States, as well as Britain, China, France and Russia, are obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals; and

WHEREAS, in July 2017, 122 nations approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which makes it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and

WHEREAS, United States taxpayers spend over \$2 million every hour of every day to maintain the United States arsenal, and the planned expenditure of more than \$1.2 trillion to enhance our nuclear arsenal will exacerbate nuclear dangers by fueling a global arms race and diverting crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of American people;

WHEREAS, in 2017, Portland taxpayers averaged \$198 per capita for a “nuclear weapons war tax” paying a collective \$13.2 million in federal taxes towards the cost of producing, deploying and maintaining nuclear weapons, and further, Maine taxpayers as a whole collectively payed an estimated \$257 million in 2017 federal taxes towards our country’s annual cost of nuclear weapons;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland, Maine, City Council calls on the United States and our Maine Congressional Delegation to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking United States nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed nations to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to each member of Maine’s Congressional Delegation.