

RESOLUTION NO.

Declare the City's opposition to nuclear weapons and urge the U.S. Federal Government to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and take action to prevent nuclear war (Resolution)

WHEREAS, [nearly 13,865 nuclear weapons](#) still exist in the world today and pose a significant risk to human survival; and

WHEREAS, the [United States was the first country to develop and use nuclear weapons in war; and](#)

WHEREAS, the [United States has approximately 6,185 nuclear weapons](#), constituting the world's second largest arsenal of nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, the [United States is currently planning to spend at least \\$1.7 trillion](#) to rebuild the US nuclear weapons arsenal; and

WHEREAS, [Portland taxpayers will spend \\$142,412,948 on nuclear weapons in 2019](#), funds that could be used for necessary programs such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, [in July of 2017, 122 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons](#) by adopting the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution gives Congress the sole power to declare war, but the [President of the United States currently has de facto sole authority to order nuclear attacks](#) without any required consultation or any system of checks and balances; and

WHEREAS, Portlanders currently benefit from the safety and security provided by existing nuclear arms reduction treaties, including the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons and New START, and previously benefited from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty from which the Trump administration has recently withdrawn; and

WHEREAS, members of Oregon's Congressional Delegation, including Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, and Representatives Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio, and Suzanne Bonamici, are leaders in Congress on nuclear disarmament and have

cosponsored legislation to end nuclear first strike capability, reduce spending on nuclear weapons, and support the INF treaty; and

WHEREAS, [plutonium for the bomb the United States dropped on Nagasaki was produced at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation](#), a site on the banks of the Columbia River in the State of Washington that displaced area residents, affected the health of Downwinders in Oregon and Washington, and caused sacred sites, villages, and fishing areas of Native American tribes to be lost; and

WHEREAS, the [Hanford Nuclear Reservation, upriver from Portland, remains the most toxic site in the Western Hemisphere](#), a nuclear sacrifice zone that threatens the health and environment of our people and region; and

WHEREAS, the [Marshall Islands were the site of 67 nuclear weapons tests](#) by the United States during the Cold War and [Oregon currently has one of the largest populations of Marshall Islanders in the nation](#), many of whom continue to suffer health consequences from their home being used as a nuclear sacrifice zone; and

WHEREAS, the service and suffering of all atomic veterans was acknowledged by the State of Oregon in 2005 with the designation of [July 16 annually as Atomic Veterans Day](#), and in 2017 with the designation of Interstate 5 between Salem and Albany as Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway; and

WHEREAS, Oregon has been home to many courageous people who have dedicated their lives to the eradication of nuclear weapons, including Hiroshima survivors Dr. Hideko Tamura Snider of Medford, and Michiko Kornhouser of Portland, Hanford cleanup advocate and Yakama Nation Elder Russell Jim, Ava Helen Pauling and her husband, Nobel Peace Prize recipient Linus Pauling, Hanford Downwinder Patricia Hoover of Eugene, and Carol Urner, who organized the first Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial in Portland in 1962; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons-related mining, milling, production, testing, storage, and use disproportionately affect women, children, communities of color, and indigenous peoples, and adequate compensation has not been made for the environmental and health consequences of nuclear weapons activities pursued by the federal government during the 50 years of the Cold War, most often on Native American land; and

WHEREAS, [Portland has been a “Mayors for Peace” city since 1988](#), supporting the call from the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the abolition of nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's state legislature in 2019 passed Senate Joint Memorial 5, legislation similar to this resolution that was led by Senator Michael Dembrow and Representatives Tawna Sanchez and Allisa Keny-Guyer who represent Portland districts; and

WHEREAS, in any war cities across the globe could be targeted for hostile action, and dozens of cities in Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States are speaking up and calling on their governments to support the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and

WHEREAS, a [single nuclear detonation in Portland could cause hundreds of thousands of immediate fatalities](#), and injuries, and illnesses from radiation and devastating effects on surrounding agricultural land and the environment for generations; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons production consumes material, academic, technological, scientific and financial resources which are desperately needed to pursue climate justice; and

WHEREAS, Portlanders, and all people, have the human right to live a life free from nuclear contamination and the threat posed by the use of nuclear weapons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of Portland urges the Congress of the United States to take appropriate steps to fulfill its ethical obligation to its people and join the global effort to prevent nuclear war by establishing a system of checks and balances ensuring that the President of the United States no longer has the sole and unchecked authority to launch nuclear weapons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Portland urges the United States Congress to renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first, and to take US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, and to cancel the plan to replace the entire US nuclear arsenal with next-generation nuclear weapons, and to actively pursue a verifiable and multilateral agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate nuclear arsenals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Portland supports the United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and calls upon the US federal government to join the treaty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Portland authorizes that the passage of this resolution be considered by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

(ICAN) for the [#ICANSAVE Cities Lead Campaign](#), joining cities from around the world in formally supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Portland City Council who support this resolution will submit their names to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) [Parliamentary Pledge](#), joining elected officials from around the world in formally supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this Resolution will be sent by the Office of Government Relations to the US Secretary of Defense, Dr. Mark T. Esper; the US Secretary of State, Michael R. Pompeo; the US President, Donald J. Trump; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer; Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi; Oregon Governor Kate Brown; US Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden; US Representatives Suzanne Bonamici, Greg Walden, Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio, and Kurt Schrader; the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons; and any other interested parties.

Adopted by the Council:

Commissioner Fritz

Prepared by: Yesenia L. Carrillo

Date Prepared: 10/29/2019

Mary Hull Caballero
Auditor of the City of Portland
By

Deputy

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Declare the City of Portland’s opposition to nuclear weapons and urge the US Federal Government to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and take action to prevent nuclear war (Resolution)

Contact name: Yesenia L. Carrillo
Contact phone: 503-823-1120
Presenter name: Yesenia L. Carrillo

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

To signal the City's commitment to and support of the protection of human life and the environment by strongly opposing the creation and use of Nuclear weapons and power.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

There are no direct financial or budgetary impacts to the City of Portland.

Community impacts and community involvement:

During the Summer of 2019, the Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility communicated to Portland City Council a request for the council’s support and passage of a resolution to declare the City of Portland’s opposition to nuclear weapons and urge the US Federal Government to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and take action to prevent nuclear war.

This resolution would allow the City of Portland to join cities and elected officials from across the country and around the world in formally supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?
 YES: Please complete the information below.
 NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount