

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter number 19

December, 2019

Hello Dear Friends,

This month's letter will be briefer than the last, and mostly focused on a local opportunity for action at the state level. The Washington Legislature begins its session in January, and we are joining forces with several peace groups to urge our legislators to pass a pair of resolutions on nuclear disarmament.

We also have a few news briefs and comments on the national and international stage, and a reminder about our next No More Bombs meeting on February 4.

On behalf of Bud, Wim, Lyndon, and Julia, I wish you all good tidings for the holiday season. We all believe wholeheartedly that Peace on Earth is a grand dream worth pursuing, and is the best possible gift we could leave for our grandchildren. Thank you all for your help and support.

Peace and Love, tracy

House Joint Memorial 4008 and **Senate Memorial 8006** are identical bills that will be introduced in the Washington Legislature in January. They were introduced last year, but not together, and too late to be acted on. We expect they will get an earlier start this time. The wording follows a pattern that has been adopted by many peace groups around the country, with additions specifically important to our state, such as reference to the massive concentrations of nuclear warheads and the submarines that carry them, at Bangor Trident base. The common thread in similar resolutions being debated and passed in other states, cities and counties nationwide is the 5 basic demands known as the Back From the Brink Resolution.

1. No first use of nuclear weapons in any conflict.
2. Removing the sole authority of a president to launch nuclear weapons.
3. Taking all US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert status.
4. Cancelling the \$1.8 Trillion "modernization" of our nuclear arsenal.
5. Actively pursuing a treaty with other nuclear nations to eliminate and ban all nuclear weapons.

HR4008 and **S8006** declare our state to endorse these principles, and urge the President and US Congress to adopt them. It is true that this is a symbolic statement and does not accomplish the necessary actions that only Congress can perform, but the idea behind it is valid I think. Asking our state government to endorse these principles is one step in the movement toward national agreement. Our group has endorsed the effort with our coalition partners at WPSR, and we are now asking you to add your voices as well. Please call your representatives and senators and ask them to act on this in our state legislature. The names and phone numbers for Districts 10 and 40 are listed here. Yes I have only listed the Democrats. If you have any influence with the Republicans, go for it, but I am choosing to focus on those who might actually listen. These are their Olympia offices, where a staff person will record your statement. You can also contact them at home if you know them, or visit their websites and email them, through the [state legislature website](#).

10th District (La Conner and South Fidalgo)

Representative Dave Paul (360) 786-7914

40th District (Anacortes, Mount Vernon, and Burlington)

Senator Liz Lovelett (360) 786-7678

Representative Debra Lekanoff (360) 786-7800

Representative Jeff Morris (until his replacement is named in January) (360) 786-7970

The Marshall Islands continues to struggle with the horrendous long term health threats that have persisted since the nuclear testing that devastated the people and ecology of the islands during the 1940s and 50s. Now they are faced with a new obstacle. Recent changes to the rules governing medical treatment for Marshall Islanders in the US have denied them health insurance coverage that they were granted decades ago. Now the [Compact of Free Association, comprised of several island states, is once again petitioning Congress](#) for help. For more information, visit this [website](#).

Residents of the Inupiat Eskimo community of Tikigaq, at Point Hope, Alaska are facing similar obstacles in recovering damages for their suffering resulting from Project Chariot. This [video](#) describes their experiences very well, as does the excellent book by Dan O'Neil, [The Firecracker Boys](#). Many thanks to Patti Santangelo for alerting us to their story.

More news has surfaced lately regarding the toxic radioactive legacy of nuclear technology, beyond the ones we have previously reported, like Hanford and Chernobyl. Germany has decided to shut down its nuclear powerplants, but has revealed it has no place, nor even a reliable plan, for permanent disposal of the waste products of its reactors. Sound familiar? Here in the US, 7 reactors have permanently shut down in the last 6 years, and 13 more are due to close by 2025. And rising sea levels in the Marshall Islands are threatening imminent failure of the Runit Dome, the temporary waste dump there. Current plans for Yucca Mountain, the site designed to permanently secure all US nuclear wastes, now unfinished and locked up, are to continue the

fight between the DOE and the state of Nevada, while no new site or strategy is even in the works, and meanwhile nuclear wastes accumulate in unsecured condition all over the country.

The latest iteration in this sad story includes discussions in Germany and other European countries about how would you properly secure a disposal site if one is established, and what languages to print the warnings signs in so that future construction crews or archaeologists stumbling upon them half a million years, or even 10,000 years from now, would be able to read and heed them?

President Putin has once again called on Trump to renew New START, the only remaining treaty restraining Russia and United States from uncontrolled manufacture and deployment of more nuclear weapons by both countries. This vital treaty is due to expire in 2021 unless it is renewed by both presidents, and no congressional debate or action is necessary. According to the original treaty, which guarantees inspections and caps the arsenals at their current levels, it will continue for another five years, if both presidents sign on.

Our government, on the other hand, has just launched an intermediate range missile test, in violation of the INF Treaty that Trump abandoned last year. Will we wake up now?

Back to the home front, our next scheduled meeting will be at the Anacortes Library meeting room at 7 PM, February 4, 2020, and it will be a great one. Our guest speaker will be Leonard Eiger of Ground Zero Center, which is right next to the Trident base in Bangor WA, where the Pacific half of the US nuclear armed submarine fleet is homeported. Please check out their website to prepare for his presentation.

Please contact us if you wish, we are always eager to follow your suggestions, and depend on you all to help in the vital work of nuclear disarmament. You can visit our website, where we archive all our documents, pdfs and powerpoint presentations you can use, links to the other peace groups with whom we communicate, notices of actions, our book and movie lists, and all the newsletters. <https://www.nomorebombs.org/>

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