

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter no. 4

September, 2018

Greetings, Friends in Peace,

We have been learning much this summer, and the news is both positive and negative. Let's sort through it together. Good new work by activists around the country, including those listed below. Some sobering information from our representative in Congress. As the midterm election approaches, it is becoming clearer that some changes may be coming. Our district won't be as involved as others, but its worth paying attention.

WPSR's [Washington Coalition Against Nuclear Weapons](#) website continues to be our best resource for up to date information on the issues we care about. Please check it out, and visit often.

[Back from the Brink](#), a phrase that former Defense Secretary and Stanford professor William J. Perry used to title his brilliant 2015 book about the cold war and its aftermath, is now being applied to a package of resolutions being proposed in several jurisdictions around our country. California just adopted one. [Nuclear Age Peace Foundation](#) has the story here. Why not introduce this into our state's political conversation? Any ideas? Please let us know.

A group of **Coalition** members, led by WPSR's Lilly Adams, met with Rick Larsen's staff in Everett on the 12th. Others in our group were Dr Bruce Amundson, also of WPSR, Nick Mele, of Pax Christi, and myself, for No More Bombs. We discussed several topics, all related to nuclear weapons. We asked for some clarification on Rep. Larsen's positions, as he had not responded to WPSR's candidates' survey, and because he sits on the House Armed Services Committee, which passed the 2018 Defense budget full of new spending on nuclear weapons, and is currently working on the next one. Our questions were handled by Adam Lemieux, his district director there in the Everett office, and JZ Golden, his defense staffer, by speaker phone from DC. This report is my own interpretation of what I heard. On the subject of disarmament, they seem to be stuck in the cold war mindset, repeating the statement that the only purpose of nuclear weapons is deterrence, and our arsenal must be the biggest and best. There is no consideration for treaties, declaring among other things that because Russia has defied the INF, we must as well. Disarmament and nonproliferation seem to be

concepts beyond their grasp. Likewise, defense budgets must never shrink, and if one weapons system is removed (they do oppose low-yield nukes) the money saved should just go to some other weapons, and never be diverted to things like health care, housing, or education. It is expected that funding for the rebuilding of the nuclear arsenal will continue to grow, soon doubling the \$1 Trillion figure first proposed.

We did get some helpful information on how we his constituents may contact the representative, and they assured us he welcomed hearing from us. Here are some hints: Letters are just as good as postcards, if sent to his district offices, where they have more staff time to read and compile them, and actually can be better than postcards because there is more room to express full opinions on issues and policy rather than quick slogans, and also if the postcard doesn't have the senders name and address, voting district is unknown and it may get ignored. Contrary to some advice, his office doesn't scan or x-ray letters, they just open them. Phone calls are good, they are recorded, and if you call the district offices, may get more attention because those staffers are not as busy as the ones in DC. In all cases, give your name and address, identifying yourself as a constituent of his district, and be specific in the issues or policy you are concerned with. Online petitions are least effective.

For your convenience, here are Representative Rick Larsen's addresses and phone numbers.

In DC: 2113 Rayburn House Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-2605

In District: 119 N Commercial St #225, Bellingham, WA 98225 (360) 733-4500

And 2930 Wetmore Ave. Suite 9F, Everett, WA 98201 (425) 252-3188

You may want to mention the two bills awaiting his endorsement and cosponsorship,

HR 669, Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017, which would require any president to consult with Congress before launching a first strike, and

HR 4415, which would establish the policy of the US never to use nuclear weapons first.

No More Bombs next meeting is Thursday September 27, 1 to 5 PM, at Anacortes Library Meeting Room.

This will be a working session, where we will be putting together future presentations and maybe practicing them with each other. We encourage all who are interested in nuclear weapons and the threat they pose to life on earth to join us, and participate in the conversation. We are all in this together, and only together can we hope to solve this mess. We need your help. Whether or not you can join us at this meeting, if you have any questions or ideas, contact me tracy@nomorebombs.org, phone 360-840-3826, or

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Bud Anderson budathome2012@hotmail.com, phone 360-540-5729,

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Our website is <https://www.nomorebombs.org/>. Everything we write, and much of what we read, is there.

“The weapons of war must be abolished, before they abolish us.” John F. Kennedy

