

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter no. 7

December, 2018

Solstice greetings All,

In this issue we will look ahead to the opportunities for peace work in the coming year. This begins with a report from our recent attendance at the symposium at UW, and the plans underway by some of the leaders of the national disarmament movement, with whom we can collaborate. A major part of this work involves congressional action on several bills that have been stalled, but will now be in play in the newly elected House of Representatives. We will lay out each bill, and suggestions for lobbying our elected officials on each.

On December 3, Kathleen, Wim, Lyndon, and I had the good fortune to attend a conference at UW, titled **The Future of Nuclear Policy: Washington's Leadership**. It was jointly presented by Ploughshares Fund, The Jackson School of International Studies, and Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. Several speakers explained how our state is at the forefront of nuclear disarmament action. For example, because of the Trident submarine base in Bremerton, if our state was a separate country, it would be the third largest nuclear power in the world. We are also home to the largest and most costly nuclear superfund site, Hanford. Our aerospace industry, including Boeing and its related corporations, is intimately involved in the "modernization" of the nation's nuclear arsenal. As you know, in response to these factors, WPSR has formed the [Washington Against Nuclear Weapons Coalition](#), of which we are a member. Together with Ploughshares Fund, the coalition has created a network of local activist groups all over our state, including religious, environmental, social justice, and other causes, all deeply affected by the current nuclear crisis. The speakers at the conference included Ben Rhodes, former Deputy National Security Advisor under President Obama, and Ploughshares president Joe Cirincione; they both stated that the work going on here in Washington is being watched and copied by groups in other states. They also encouraged us to stay involved and work harder.

The key to making our efforts more effective is the recent election that flipped the House of Representatives. WA Representative Adam Smith (D-9) has served on the Armed Services Committee for 21 years, and he will now be its Chair. This committee not only deals with the Defense Department budget, it also investigates and recommends policy on military matters for the Congress. The bills listed below can all be discussed and put on the House agenda by this committee. Representative Smith has already stated his desire to pass them, he introduced HR 4415 himself in 2017, and he will now be able to act on them all. Our job will be to lobby our own representatives Rick Larsen and Susan DelBene to get on board and publicly support them too.

The one thing I was discouraged by in this conference was the lack of young people in the audience. Of the couple hundred folks there, only a very few were college students. I think this represents our biggest challenge. How can we engage the generations who have not been exposed to these issues, but will be the voters most critical to resolving them, in the future? We need to figure this out now, and I welcome any ideas you have.

Congressional actions to watch, and lobby for, in January. These bills will be brought out of the closet in the House of Representatives this coming session.

[HR. 669, Restricting First use of Nuclear Weapons.](#) If this bill becomes law, the president would no longer be allowed to order a first strike without consultation and authorization of Congress. Its companion bill in the [Senate is S. 200.](#)

[HR. 4415, Prohibiting First Strike of Nuclear Weapons](#) . No First Use. This Bill goes beyond, to prohibit the US from ever striking first with nuclear weapons. So far, it has no Senate companion bill, but because Adam Smith introduced it, and he will now chair the committee that will first bring it up, it will get plenty of attention. Perhaps Senators Murray and Cantwell could be persuaded to introduce a Senate version.

[HR . 4837, Restricting Military Action Against North Korea.](#) This would require a president to get approval of Congress before attacking North Korea. The Senate companion bill [S. 2047](#) , is worded slightly differently, but says the same thing.

[HR. 6840, Hold the LYNE Act](#) , Prohibiting development of new Trident D5 and other so-called Low Yield Nuclear Warheads. There is a comparable Senate bill, [S. 3448](#). These would be new weapons, and this program would be a major escalation in the current arms race.

[S. 3169, Extending New START](#) . The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which successfully shrank the arsenals of both US and Russia, is expiring , and needs to be reauthorized to continue its work

It will be important to get other representatives on record, cosponsoring and publicly supporting these bills.

According to Rick Larsen's Aide, Letters are read immediately, as are postcards, and their messages recorded and saved for the representatives, if your return address is in the district. Likewise for phone messages. You must identify yourself and your address within the representative's district.

Representative Rick Larsen (District 2)	<i>Local offices:</i> 2930 Wetmore Ave. Suite 9F, Everett, WA 98201
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Representative Susan DelBene (District 1)	<i>Local office:</i> 204 W Montgomery St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
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Because the Senate is still controlled by Republicans, getting these bills passed will be more difficult, but it is equally important that senators go on record, as cosponsors, and vocal supporters.

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Other developments to watch for now and in the new year, with which we will have opportunities to contribute:

Public Comment period for DOE proposal to reclassify nuclear waste toxicity, to restrict Hanford cleanup, closes January 9. Link to the notice and comment recommendations here.

<https://www.hanfordchallenge.org/events/2018/10/10/request-for-public-comment-on-the-us-department-of-energy-interpretation-of-high-level-radioactive-waste>

Nuclear Free State Resolution – Washington Coalition Against Nuclear Weapons is finalizing their resolution, and will distribute it to coalition members, so we can actively lobby our state representatives and senators to adopt it. There have been several proposed in different districts, and this one combines the best features of them all. I hope to include it in the January issue.

We will once again be showing scary movies, like Dr Strangelove, The Day After, Command and Control, and any others you can suggest. You all get to choose which one we start with, and as soon as we get enough suggestions to be sure we will have an audience, a date and location will be announced. So contact me, tracy@nomorebombs.org or phone 360-840-3826 with your ideas.

As always, we appreciate your comments and suggestions, please let us know what you think. Contact us any time: Bud Anderson, budathome2012@hotmail.com, Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com, Lyndon Greene anacomaritimectr@msn.com, or me tracy@nomorebombs.org

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