

Restricting the First Use of Nuclear Weapons and Banning the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction

WHEREAS 1.24.005 of Whatcom County Code known as "[Nuclear Free Zone](#)" declares that "Whatcom County shall be and is declared a nuclear free zone in which no nuclear weapons or their components shall be manufactured, assembled, researched or stored; no nuclear energy shall be produced for commercial or military purposes, and no nuclear wastes resulting from the above activities shall be stored." (Adopted by vote of the people in initiative form in November, 1984);

WHEREAS 9.26.010 of Skagit County Code known as the "[Skagit County Nuclear Weapons Free Zone](#)" states: "Skagit County shall be and is hereby declared to be a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, within which all development, testing, transportation, deployment, storage, manufacture or usage of nuclear weapons is prohibited." (Res. 10491 (part), 1985);

WHEREAS 8.08 of San Juan County Code known as the "[Nuclear Weapons Free Zone](#)" declares: "San Juan County is and shall remain a nuclear weapons-free zone." (Res. 40-1984 § 1);

WHEREAS the Washington State Democrats passed a resolution restricting first use of nuclear weapons on June 16, 2018 and September 10, 2017;

WHEREAS the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall have the power to declare war." Congress having the authority to provide funding. . . or withhold funding. Congress, as such, maintaining a separation of Powers granted by the Constitution, has the power . . . to declare war;

WHEREAS the President currently has sole authority to launch a first-use nuclear strike, a policy that increases the risk of nuclear war and is vulnerable to accidents and miscommunication;

WHEREAS U.S. policies such as maintaining nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert and refusing to adopt an explicit "no-first use" policy, are destabilizing and threaten national security;

WHEREAS reducing the dangers from nuclear weapons remains one of the highest national security priorities;

WHEREAS one Trident submarine has the potential destructive equivalent of over 5,800 Hiroshima bombs;

WHEREAS retaining the current US arsenal of nearly 7,000 nuclear weapons defies common sense and fiscal responsibility, at a time when we need housing, healthcare, public education, and a response to climate change;

WHEREAS 122 UN member countries voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons;

WHEREAS globally we know that no one wins a nuclear war and there is no such thing as a limited nuclear war;

WHEREAS globally we all breathe the same air and drink the same water, and must prevent the possibility of accidental or deliberate nuclear war;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State 40th Legislative District Democrats call on our Washington Congressional delegation and Senators Murray and Cantwell to support [H.R. 669](#) and [S. 200](#) of 2018 and 2019 Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act that would prevent the President from unilaterally launching a nuclear first strike without a Congressional Declaration of War Authorization;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington State 40th Legislative District Democrats urge state legislators from within the District to support and vote for [HJM 4008](#) and [SJM 8006](#) of 2019-20 Requesting that Congress establish more checks and balances to reduce the possibility of nuclear war;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Washington State 40th Legislative District Democrats urge our Federal and State legislators to co-sponsor and pass such legislation to Restrict First Use of Nuclear Weapons and instead invest in diplomacy, seeking peace, and the critical democratic needs of all of our citizens and preserve our national security.

Passed at the 40th General Membership Meeting, 3-1-2020, USW Hall, Mount Vernon