

Resolution for consideration:

By Pierce County and the 27th Legislative District Democratic Party organizations

Submitted by Kit Burns 27-439 December 2, 2017, 2017

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*A resolution urging Rep. Derek Kilmer, Adam Smith, and Denny Heck to co-sponsor legislation
To Restrict First Use of Nuclear Weapons and oppose rebuilding of the US Nuclear Arsenal*

WHEREAS a limited nuclear war involving even 0.01% (150 bombs) of the world nuclear weapons stockpile would threaten life on the entire planet, including precipitation of a Nuclear Winter, causing starvation of over two billion people, poisoning our atmosphere with deadly radiation, and permanently biologically damaging future generations;

WHEREAS these efforts to re-build weapons of mass destruction are estimated to cost up to **\$1.7 trillion** dollars over the next 30 years;

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

WHEREAS the Department of Defense and Department of Energy plan to replace the nuclear submarine fleet, re-build and replace the Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, build a new strategic bomber fleet, and build a new nuclear cruise missile, while re-building associated nuclear warheads, and all while building new facilities across the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons complex;

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

WHEREAS U.S. policies such as maintaining nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert and continuing to not adopt an explicit "no-first use" policy, are destabilizing and threaten national security;

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

WHEREAS 122 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;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pierce County Democrats oppose the Administration's destabilizing and costly plan to re-build our entire nuclear arsenal, and the nuclear arms race this provokes;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 27th Legislative District Democrats support An Act of Congress restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act and related legislation that would prevent any President from unilaterally launching a nuclear first strike without *Congressional Declaration of War Authorization*;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Pierce County Democrats and the 27th LD, urge Representatives Derek Kilmer, Adam Smith, and Denny Heck to co-sponsor such legislation to Restrict First Use of Nuclear Weapons and to oppose rebuilding of the US Nuclear Arsenal, and instead invest in diplomacy seeking Peace, and the critical democratic needs of all of our citizens.