

Opposing Re-building of the US Nuclear Arsenal

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

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

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

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16 **WHEREAS** the Department of Defense and Department of Energy plan to replace the
17 nuclear submarine fleet, rebuild and replace Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, build a new
18 strategic bomber fleet, and build a new nuclear cruise missile, while rebuilding associated
19 existing nuclear warheads, and all the while building new facilities across the Department
20 of Energy's Nuclear Weapons Complex;

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22 **WHEREAS** these efforts to rebuild weapons of mass destruction are estimated to cost up to
23 \$1.7 trillion dollars over the next 30 years;

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

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

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33 **WHEREAS** reducing the dangers from nuclear weapons remains one of the highest national
34 security priorities; and

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

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43 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats oppose
44 Congress's destabilizing and costly plan to re-build our entire nuclear arsenal, and the
45 nuclear arms race this provokes;

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47 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Washington State Democrats support
48 An Act of Congress restricting The First Use of Nuclear Weapons and such related
49 legislation that would prevent any President or military command from unilaterally
50 launching a nuclear strike without a Congressional Declaration of War Authorization;
51 and

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53 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats encourage
54 our U.S. Representatives to co-sponsor such legislation to Oppose Re-building of the US
55 Nuclear Arsenal, and instead invest in diplomacy, seeking Peace, and the critical democratic
56 needs of all of our citizens.

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Submitted by the Pierce County Democrats.

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60 The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 15, 2018
61 meeting.

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63 The 2018 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 16, 2018.