



PORTLANDJACL

SUPPORTING CIVIL RIGHTS SINCE 1928

March 29, 2019

The Portland JACL supports Senate Memorial 5. We have been representing Japanese Americans in Oregon since the children of the first immigrants became eligible for citizenship. Our goal has always been civic engagement.

We are deeply concerned about the United States' continued reliance on nuclear weapons. Our community was deeply affected by the choice of President Truman and our military to drop the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Many members of our community had relatives and friends who perished or became ill with radiation sickness.

Dr. Hideko Tamura Snider, who now lives in Medford, is a hibakusha, or a survivor of the atomic bombing, and tells of seeing bodies floating in the river and people walking around who looked like they were dressed in rags, but it was their skin peeling from their body.

The human effects were horrific. It was the first time this weapon was used on civilian populations. It is estimated that over 200,000 people were killed immediately and tens of thousands died later with the effects of radiation. Now, our weapons are even more powerful and more deadly.

Not only is the use the nuclear weapons catastrophic, the whole process of production, storage and management of the products of these weapons put civilian populations at risk.

Hanford is just across the river from us, and during World War II it was the secret location where plutonium was produced for the bomb that dropped on Nagasaki. The radioactive contaminated waste was buried in tanks in the surrounding countryside whose groundwater flows into the Columbia. This area is considered the most contaminated nuclear waste site in the United States.

We urge the United States Congress to support the global effort to prevent nuclear war by establishing a system of checks and balances to ensure that the President of the United States no longer has the sole and unchecked authority to launch nuclear weapons.

We also urge the State of Oregon and the United States government to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Respectfully,

Marleen Wallingford
President Portland JACL



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