

Esteemed elected representatives,

Since 1962, residents of Portland and the surrounding area have gathered annually to remember the victims of the August 6th and August 9th, 1945 atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Recognizing both the immediate and long-term threats to life and human health inherent in the existence of nuclear weapons, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon PSR) has taken the lead role in organizing this annual memorial event for many years. A great many other peace, justice, environmental, Japanese, Japanese-American, and Pacific Islander cultural groups, as well as thousands of individual Oregonians, have joined us in supporting these annual memorial events, which we organize each year to both honor the lives lost to the horrors of nuclear weapons and to take action for a world free from the threat of these morally indefensible weapons of indiscriminate mass destruction.

Together with our dozens of supporting community partners, we have called upon elected leaders at the local, state, national, and international levels to take meaningful, concrete actions to protect our city, and other cities around the world, from the unacceptable threat of nuclear annihilation. We were thrilled when our local activism contributed to the United Nation's passage of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July of 2017. This landmark treaty includes a comprehensive set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities, include any undertakings to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use, or threaten to use nuclear weapons. We continue to urge the US to adopt and adhere to the nuclear ban treaty's critically important goals.

We support Senate Joint Memorial 5 because it makes an unequivocal statement that Oregonians support nuclear disarmament. In the absence of effective leadership at the national and international levels to make progress on nuclear weapons abolition, we understand the need to act locally. We encourage all members of the Oregon legislature to learn more about and develop an understanding of the unacceptable threats to humanity, indeed to all life on Earth, posed by nuclear weapons, and to use all authority available to them to work for full and lasting nuclear disarmament.

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