

TAWNA SANCHEZ
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 43
NORTH AND NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 3, 2019

Re: Senate Joint Memorial 5

Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee,

I write in support of Senate Joint Memorial 5, urging Congress to lead the global effort to reduce the threat of nuclear war, and join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

As a member of the Hanford Cleanup Board, the intergovernmental body overseeing the cleanup of the most toxic contamination site in the Western Hemisphere, I have witnessed first-hand the difficulty and extreme cost that nuclear storage and decontamination efforts incur. We are still attempting to deal with today, the lingering residue of the nuclear decisions of our past, and it is literally costing us billions of dollars.

We know that the mining, production, testing, and storage of nuclear weapons and nuclear waste disproportionately effect indigenous communities, and communities of color, regardless of where in the world these activities take place, be it the United States, Africa, or Australia.

It has been nearly 75 years since the United States became the first and only nation to use nuclear weapons in war, and in acknowledgement of that truth, I urge this committee to push forward this effort and join the call from the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as 122 nations around the world, for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Thank you,

Representative Tawna Sanchez

