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To: Members of the Senate Committee on Rules
From: Rhett Lawrence, Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter
Date: April 3, 2019
RE: Senate Joint Memorial 5

Chair Burdick and members of the Committee: My name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. On behalf of the more than 25,000 Sierra Club members in Oregon, I am pleased to submit these comments in support of Senate Joint Memorial 5.

As an organization with a long history of opposition to both nuclear energy sources and the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the Sierra Club is in strong agreement with the sentiments expressed in SJM 5. Truly, the whereas clauses in the memorial express the need for the legislation better than we could ever hope to do. Among the more salient ones: "nuclear weapons pose a threat simply by existing, due to the possibility of accidents and miscalculations;" "Oregon taxpayers spend approximately \$188 million on nuclear weapons annually, which takes funding away from necessary programs such as education, health care, infrastructure and the environment;" and "Oregonians have the human right to live a life free from nuclear contamination and the threat posed by the reckless use of nuclear weapons."

Given the inherent danger and expense of nuclear weapons worldwide, and given the inherent unpredictability and frequent irrationality of the current Administration, the need for thoughtful consideration of the nuclear threat is now nearly as great as it ever has been. The provisions of SJM 5 calling for Congress to take steps to "lead a 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 have the sole and unchecked authority to launch nuclear weapons" is entirely warranted.

In addition, we appreciate the memorial's call to renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first, cancel the plan to replace the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal with next-generation nuclear weapons, and actively pursue a verifiable and multilateral agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

For all of these reasons, the Sierra Club very much supports Senate Joint Memorial 5 and we urge Committee members to do the same. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony and please let me know if I may be of any further assistance to the committee.