



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OR 97301

Re: Senate Joint Memorial 5

June 12th, 2019

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Rules Committee,

I write in support for Senate Joint Memorial 5, urging Congress to lead the global effort to reduce the threat of nuclear war by signing on to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear War. The Treaty was passed by the United Nations in 2017 with support from 122 countries.

Oregonians have the human right to live a life free from nuclear contamination and the threat posed by the reckless use of nuclear weapons. I have dedicated most of my life to public health and worked first-hand with vulnerable communities here in Oregon and globally.

Nuclear weapons-related activities which range from mining, milling, production, testing, storage and use disproportionately affect communities of color, indigenous peoples and women. Plutonium for the bomb the US dropped on Nagasaki was produced at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, a site on Washington side of the Columbia River. This activity displaced area residents, affected the health of "Downwinders" and caused Native American sacred sites, villages and fishing areas to be lost.

The Marshall Islands were the site of 67 nuclear weapons tests by the United States during the Cold War. Oregon has one of the largest populations of Marshall Islanders in the nation, many of whom continue to suffer health consequences from their home being used as a nuclear sacrifice zone. Unfortunately, many of them still have not received proper compensation from our federal government and continue to face long-term health and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons. I and other colleagues have worked closely with the COFA Pacific Islanders to pass legislation on health care access.

SJM 5 is supported by the Oregon Marshallese Community Association, the COFA Alliance National Network Living Islands, and APANO. I hope you will consider that countless lives have been lost and impacted by nuclear weapons, and that we legislators have an important responsibility to protect humanity.

The passage of SJM will be historic - it will put Oregon on record as leaders in the nation to support the Nuclear Ban Treaty and legislation to prevent nuclear war. California passed similar legislation last year, and New Jersey just passed one through their Assembly. At this moment in time, when the risk of nuclear war is higher than it has been since the end of the cold war, we must do everything we can to work for nuclear disarmament.

Sincerely,

Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer

