

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 7

Joint resolution strongly opposing the basing of any nuclear weapon delivery system in the State of Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Small of Winooski, Cina of Burlington, Townsend of South Burlington, Bartholomew of Hartland, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burrows of West Windsor, Colburn of Burlington, Colston of Winooski, Cordes of Lincoln, Dolan of Essex, Dolan of Waitsfield, Hooper of Randolph, Houghton of Essex, Jessup of Middlesex, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Rachelson of Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, and Vyhovsky of Essex

Whereas, the State of Vermont has long been a national leader in opposing the spread of nuclear weapons, and

Whereas, on May 7, 2019, both a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel and a retired Vermont Air National Guard Lt. Colonel testified before the Vermont Senate Committee on Government Operations in opposition to the basing of the F-35 aircraft in Burlington, and

Whereas, they each testified that when the now-retired F-89 aircraft was stationed in Burlington in the 1960s it carried nuclear warheads, but that neither the U.S. Department of Defense nor the U.S. Air Force informed the State of Vermont that these weapons were being stored locally, and

Whereas, the 2018 *Nuclear Posture Review*, a publication of the U.S. Department of Defense, states that "We [the United States] are committed to upgrading the DCA (Dual-Capable Aircraft) with the nuclear-capable F-35 aircraft," and further that "The United States is also incorporating nuclear capability onto the F-35, to be used by the United States and NATO allies, as a replacement for the current aging DCA," and

Whereas, it is possible that the F-35s under the Vermont National Guard's command at the Burlington International Airport could be upgraded to permit them to carry nuclear weapons, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its strong opposition to the basing of any nuclear delivery system in the State of Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor, to the U.S. Secretary of Defense, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.