

State of Vermont Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

Senate Resolution

By Senators Pollina, Baruth, Clarkson, Hooker, Ingram, McCormack, Pearson and Perchlik,

S.R. 5. Senate resolution relating to strongly opposing the basing of any nuclear weapon delivery system in the State of Vermont.

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

Whereas, at Town Meeting in 1982, 88 percent of the 180 municipalities voting on a U.S–U.S.S.R. bilateral nuclear freeze ballot measure voted in the affirmative, and

Whereas, at Town Meeting in 1999, 33 Vermont municipalities voted to “call upon the U.S. government and governments of all nuclear weapons states to secure on an urgent basis a nuclear weapons abolition treaty” that would include a timetable for the early and mutually verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, and

Whereas, shortly after the 33 towns approved this town meeting question, the General Assembly adopted Acts and Resolves No. R-120, “Joint resolution relating to urgently requesting the U.S. government to immediately enter into negotiations with all other nuclear nations for the adoption of a verifiable treaty to abolish nuclear weapons,” and

Whereas, on May 7, 2019, a retired Vermont Air National Guard Lieutenant Colonel testified before the Senate Committee on Government Operations that when the now-retired F-89 aircraft was stationed in Burlington 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, in a July 2018 interview, an official in the U.S. Air Force’s Financial Management and Comptroller’s office indicated that the variant of the F-35 to be assigned to the National Guard will eventually receive a Block 4 (nuclear capable) upgrade, and

Resolved by the Senate of the State of Vermont:

That the Senate of the State of Vermont 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 the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor, to Acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.