

Town of La Conner



Resolution No. 661

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES TAKE STEPS TO MITIGATE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR.

Whereas, nine nations collectively have approximately 12,500 nuclear weapons in their arsenals, most of which are far more destructive than those that killed hundreds of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945; and

Whereas, the detonation of even a small number of these weapons could have catastrophic human and environmental consequences that could threaten human civilization itself and affect everyone on the planet; and

Whereas, the United States maintains several hundred nuclear missiles in underground silos on hair-trigger alert, capable of being launched within minutes after a presidential order, which greatly increases the risk of an accidental, mistaken or unauthorized launch; and

Whereas, the United States continues to reserve the right to use nuclear weapons first, which reduces the threshold for nuclear use and makes a nuclear war more likely; and

Whereas, the U.S. president has the sole and unchecked authority to order the use of nuclear weapons; and

Whereas, the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and numerous human security and social justice concerns highlight the need for greater investment in our communities; and

Whereas, the full cost of U.S. nuclear weapons in 2023 alone, including for weapons development, testing and maintenance, environmental clean-up, missile defense and nonproliferation initiatives will be an estimated \$90 billion; and

Whereas, the United States plans to spend an estimated \$756 billion between 2021 and 2030 and \$1.7 trillion by 2046 to replace its entire nuclear arsenal and the bombers, missiles and submarines that deliver them with more capable, more usable versions; and

Whereas, U.S. taxpayers spend roughly \$10.3 million every hour of every day to maintain the U.S. nuclear arsenal and its associated costs; and

Whereas, a grassroots coalition called “Back from the Brink: Bringing Communities Together to Abolish Nuclear Weapons” has been endorsed by over 465 health, environmental, academic, peace, faith, and justice organizations and over 80 U.S. municipalities, counties and states have adopted resolutions supporting Back from the Brink’s policy solutions, including Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, Tucson and Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, the United States, as well as Britain, China, France and Russia, are obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals; and

Whereas, in July 2017, 122 nations approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which entered into force on January 22, 2021, making it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and

Whereas, as of September 30, 2023, 93 countries have signed the TPNW and 69 countries have ratified it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LA CONNER:

That the Town Council of the Town of La Conner calls on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:


- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals;
- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; and
- canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons.

Be it further resolved that the Town Council of the Town of La Conner calls on the United States to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.


Be it further resolved that the Town Council of the Town of La Conner calls on U.S. House Representative Rick Larsen to cosponsor H. Res. 77, a Congressional “Back from the Brink” resolution introduced in January, 2023 that calls on the U.S. to embrace the goals and provisions of the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and adopt common sense policies to help prevent nuclear war.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution will be sent to Representative Rick Larsen and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, and to President Donald J. Trump.


Adopted by a vote of the La Conner Town Council this 22nd day of April, 2025.


Marna Hanneman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Maria DeGoede, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Scott G. Thomas
Town Attorney