

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 F-35 fighter jet, scheduled for deployment in Vermont, was designed with a requirement to carry a nuclear payload, and

Whereas, former U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis has spoken of the importance of the nuclear-armed F-35 as part of the nation's deterrence equation, and

Whereas, the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review states that "a nuclear-armed F-35 is fundamental to deterring Russia," and

Whereas, the Pentagon has awarded funding to Lockheed Martin to develop a nuclear-armed F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter as part of a new nuclear strategy, and

Whereas, the U.S. Air Force plans to mount the B-61-12 nuclear gravity bomb on the F-35, thus integrating it into the air-delivered leg of the nuclear triad that also includes sea- and land-based missiles, and

Whereas, in 2017, the then Director of the F-35 Program Integration Office stated that the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is slated to be armed with the B-61-12 nuclear gravity bomb "sometime between 2020 and 2022 but could carry the weapon sooner," and

Whereas, the U.S. Air Force has also awarded Lockheed Martin \$83.1 million to develop and test equipment for F-35A nuclear capability, and

Whereas, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy has written that throughout his time in the Senate he has "always fought to reduce the number of nuclear armaments, and to halt the testing, production, and proliferation of nuclear arsenals" and that he has "long believed that simply upgrading the entirety of the U.S. nuclear arsenal is an unaffordable course of action," and

Whereas, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders has written of the nation's "already bloated nuclear arsenal" and has cosponsored the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures Act, which would reduce the size of the country's nuclear arsenal, and that he "strongly oppose(s) the basing of nuclear weapons in Vermont," and

Whereas, U.S. Air Force documentation discussing the type of ordnance that might be deployed on the F-35 stated that "The F-35A would train for and deploy all the types of ordnance it is capable of carrying," *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 weapon delivery system in the State of Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the General Assembly requests that the Governor and the members of the Vermont Congressional Delegation inform the Acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan that the State of Vermont will not support a nuclear weapon delivery system to be based in this State, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State 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.