

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Resolution 5 entitled “Senate resolution strongly opposing the basing of any
4 nuclear weapon delivery system in the State of Vermont” respectfully reports
5 that it has considered the same and recommends that the resolution be
6 amended by striking it out in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 Senate resolution strongly opposing the basing of any nuclear weapon
9 delivery system in Vermont.

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

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

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

20 *Whereas*, shortly after the 33 towns approved this town meeting question,
21 the General Assembly adopted Acts and Resolves No. R-120, “Joint resolution

1 relating to urgently requesting the U.S. government to immediately enter into
2 negotiations with all other nuclear nations for the adoption of a verifiable
3 treaty to abolish nuclear weapons,” and

4 *Whereas*, on May 7, 2019, a retired Vermont Air National Guard Lieutenant
5 Colonel testified before the Senate Committee on Government Operations that
6 when the now-retired F-89 aircraft was stationed in Burlington it carried
7 nuclear warheads, but that neither the U.S. Department of Defense nor the U.S.
8 Air Force informed the State of Vermont that these weapons were being stored
9 locally, and

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

16 *Whereas*, in a July 2018 interview, an official in the U.S. Air Force’s
17 Financial Management and Comptroller’s office indicated that the variant of
18 the F-35 to be assigned to the National Guard will eventually receive a Block 4
19 (nuclear capable) upgrade, and

20 ***Resolved by the Senate of the State of Vermont:***

1 That the Senate of the State of Vermont expresses its strong opposition to
2 the basing of any nuclear delivery system in the State of Vermont, *and be it*
3 *further*

4 **Resolved:** That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of
5 this resolution to the Governor, to Acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Patrick
6 Shanahan, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

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10 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____
FOR THE COMMITTEE