Oregon Takes Action for Nuclear Weapons Abolition

Kelly Campbell, Executive Director

Nuclear weapons are in the news and on people’s minds lately in a way that we haven’t seen in decades. Taking advantage of this heightened awareness, Oregon PSR has been proactive this year in raising the topic of nuclear disarmament in innovative ways and with new audiences, building the case for nuclear abolition as a social justice concern that is deeply connected to the economic, racial, and environmental justice issues being addressed by growing and increasingly interconnected progressive movements. While recent news such as Trump pulling out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and increased conflict between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan are worrisome, the success of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (commonly called the Nuclear Ban Treaty) gives us a legal framework for a path to make a nuclear weapons-free world a reality.

Nuclear Disarmament Goes to Salem

One new venue where we’re raising the discussion of nuclear disarmament is with the Oregon State Legislature. At our request, Chief Sponsors Senator Michael Dembrow and Representatives Tawna Sanchez and Alissa Keny-Guyer introduced Senate Joint Memorial 5 (SJM 5), which resolves that Oregon’s legislature urges the federal government to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and supports a host of federal legislative efforts to prevent nuclear war. The memorial

(continued on page 3)

Fighting for a Healthy Future

Regna Merritt, Healthy Climate Program Director

Oregon PSR is dedicated to protecting human health by working for climate justice and promoting common-sense energy policies. Though challenges are ever-present, with your support we’ve made significant progress in the last few months.

Winning on Coal

As co-directors of the Power Past Coal coalition, we’re celebrating a victory at Fraser Surrey Docks in British Columbia! A key coal permit was cancelled by the Port of Vancouver (BC) on February 1st. The campaign to halt this permit began in early 2013. We extend congratulations to our Power Past Coal partners in BC on this huge victory — six years in the making.

The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminal in Longview, WA was released to the public in December. The process was led by the Planning Department of Cowlitz County, whose elected commissioners support the transport, storage, and shipment of 44 million metric tons of coal through and near Longview. While not perfect, the HIA confirmed health disparities

(continued on page 5)
Dear Oregon PSR Supporter,

“The children will become leaders as the leaders have become children.” This quote is from Madison Leal, who survived the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14th of last year. She was decrying the lack of action on gun control and the failure to protect students from mass shootings.

As I write this, children all over the world are walking out of class as part of a global youth climate strike. Seeing those young faces with so much optimism, integrity, and determination gives me hope for our movement to protect human health and preserve a livable planet for future generations. It also makes me deeply sad. The sign of one young protester read “Our Children Will be an Endangered Species.” Our young people should be able to be kids, if only for a little while longer, knowing that we, the adults who have the power to make change, are actively addressing the existential threats of climate change and nuclear war.

While we still live with the specter of devastating climate destabilization and major setbacks regarding nuclear disarmament, Oregon PSR has had some tremendous successes over the past few months in our work. In this issue of The Folded Crane you can read about the successes and challenges facing us in our work for a healthy climate, our support for a Green New Deal in Oregon, our increasingly diverse outreach and efforts around nuclear weapons abolition, our engagement of Oregon’s young people in exploring the health impacts of systemic racism, and more.

This year’s Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship question for Oregon high school juniors and seniors is:

“How can you work against systemic racism to help make our world more healthy and peaceful?” Mark your calendars and come hear what the winning students think at the awards ceremony on Friday, April 26th. While you have your calendar out, please also plan to join us for our Tuesday, August 6th Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial event in Portland.

Oregon PSR remains at the forefront of our state’s interconnected movement for a healthy, just, and peaceful world. Your financial support is essential to our work, so please consider giving today, signing up for monthly automated giving, or including our organization in your estate planning (my partner and I finally got around to making a will and I was amazed at how easy it was to include Oregon PSR).

Right when I was starting to really feel bad about the implications of children having to go on strike to try to move adults to take action on climate action, I read the sign of another young protester that made me laugh: “I’ll take my exams when You take action on climate.” Let’s get to work, so that they can get back to school.

With Love and Solidarity,

Patrick O’Herron, MD
Oregon PSR Board President
garnered 16 additional sponsors and is providing an opening to discuss how nuclear weapons impact Oregonians, such as the cost trade-offs of wasting our tax dollars on these unnecessary weapons rather than funding human needs. We’re working with a broad spectrum of organizations around the state that support the memorial, including such diverse groups as the Oregon Just Transition Alliance, Church Women of Lane County, Oregon Marshallese Community, and the Sierra Club, among many others, and we are finding widespread enthusiasm for making an unequivocal statement that Oregonians support nuclear disarmament.

**Take Action:** Please contact your Oregon state senator and representative and ask them to support SJM 5, and visit our website to learn about opportunities to submit testimony at a legislative hearing in spring 2019.

**No Nukes Forum Makes Social Justice Connections**

On January 10th of this year, around 45 people gathered at the No Nukes Forum in Portland to learn about how nuclear weapons and nuclear power intersect with social justice issues. Using an innovative ‘learning stations’ format, participants had the opportunity to partake in activities such as learning about nuclear sacrifice zones in the Marshall Islands and the Hanford Nuclear Reservation with Marshallese poet and activist Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner and Columbia Riverkeeper’s Dan Serres; viewing the devastation of the Hiroshima bombing through the eyes of young artists with Chisao Hata and Yukiyo Kawano; exploring the intersection of gender and nuclear weapons with Lilly Adams of Washington PSR; understanding why nuclear power isn’t part of a just energy transition with Janaira Ramirez of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance and our own Damon Motz-Storey; and delving into the moral implications of a federal budget that prioritizes military and nuclear weapons spending over human needs with me. Co-organized with the Oregon Just Transition Alliance, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, and Washington PSR, the event brought those who’ve been involved with the anti-nuclear movement for decades together with social justice activists who are new to nuclear issues. It was gratifying to see that participant evaluations indicated that everyone learned something new, and that all who attended were now more likely to take action on nuclear issues.

**Earl Blumenauer Signs Parliamentarian’s Pledge to Support Ban Treaty**

We’re thrilled to share the good news that Oregon Representative Earl Blumenauer has, at our request, signed on to ICAN’s ‘Parliamentarian’s Pledge’ to support the Nuclear Ban Treaty, becoming the sixth congressperson in the US to formally support the pledge. Other nuclear-armed states already have dozens of parliamentarians taking the pledge, so we have some catching up to do here in the US to formally support the pledge.
Take Action: If you are one of his constituents, be sure to thank Rep. Blumenauer for his leadership. Next up, we’re requesting that Senators Wyden and Merkley, as well as Representatives Bonamici and DeFazio, also sign on, so be sure to encourage them to sign the pledge, as well.

Dr. Tillman Ruff Speaks in Portland, Along With Children Remember

On November 13th of last year, we were pleased to host Co-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and Co-Founder of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Dr. Tillman Ruff, who was visiting from Australia, for an event that also featured the evocative Children Remember performance and exhibit developed by local artists Yukiyo Kawano and Chisao Hata. The evening brought together the head and the heart to reflect upon the humanitarian consequences of nuclear war and to offer hope for a nuclear-free future through the Nuclear Ban Treaty that ICAN successfully brought to the United Nations, and for which they won the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize. Attracting about 75 attendees, the event was cosponsored by WorldOregon and the Jubitz Family Foundation’s War Prevention Initiative.

Dr. Ira Helfand to Speak in Portland on April 9th

Dr. Ira Helfand, Co-President of IPPNW and a Board Member of National Physicians for Social Responsibility, will give a presentation titled The Growing Danger of Nuclear War: What Can Health Professionals Do About It? in Portland on Tuesday, April 9th from 8:30 until 9:30 AM at OHSU’s Marquam Hill Campus. He will also be speaking at Lewis & Clark College on the evenings of April 9-10th. Visit oregonpsr.org for more details.

Save the Date: August 6th Hiroshima and Nagasaki Memorial Event

We have begun to plan for the 2019 Portland-area Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial event. Mark your calendar and plan to join us on Tuesday, August 6th at the Japanese American Historical Plaza on the Portland Waterfront to remember the victims of the US atomic bombing of these two Japanese cities and to take action for a nuclear-free future.

Not Just Nukes: Our Peace Program Agenda

In addition to our foundational work on nuclear weapons, Oregon PSR’s Peace Program takes a broad and intersectional view of peace as a health issue, encompassing gun violence prevention, racial justice, immigrant and refugee rights, anti-militarism, and more. Other recent highlights of our work include participating in the coalition that successfully convinced Portland’s City Council to withdraw from the Joint Terrorism Task Force, co-sponsoring an outstanding event on demilitarizing the Pacific, and, of course, our annual Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship, which this year focuses on racial justice (see back page for more details on the Friday, April 26th scholarship awards ceremony.)

Get Involved!

We couldn’t accomplish all of this important work without the volunteer efforts of our members. If you are interested in getting more involved in any of the various aspects of our peace work, please contact me at kelly@oregonpsr.org. We look forward to working with you!
and threats to the health of low-income communities from this dirty and dangerous project. We’re deeply grateful to the majority of members of the HIA Committee that recommended that the terminal not be built.

Oregon PSR contributed over 4,000 comments, as well as detailed technical information, to the HIA process. Thank you to the many volunteers who attended each meeting and work session and to those who signed petitions and testified. Special thanks go to Dr. Stephen Chandler and Dr. Ann Turner for their invaluable work.

More good news: Earthjustice continues to successfully represent Power Past Coal partners who have intervened to support Washington State permit denials.

The continuing saga: Ignoring the protests of the Cowlitz Indian Tribes, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, public health advocates, and environmental groups, the US Army Corps of Engineers proceeds with work on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Millennium project. The date for release of the final EIS is unknown.

Resisting Big Oil

Zenith, formerly Arc Logistics, is adding infrastructure to increase the volume and frequency of oil trains moving through the Columbia Gorge into NW Portland. From there, it exports oil to a refinery in China. While we’ve had success in efforts to prohibit new bulk fossil fuel infrastructure within Portland, we need new action to prevent disasters at existing facilities. The unacceptable threat of oil spills was underscored yet again in late February when 37 oil cars spilled onto the snow near an oxbow of the Assiniboine River in Manitoba, Canada.

Tar sands present the daunting threat of sinking oils and are much more difficult to capture and remove. Expanding to run at least one train per week would dramatically increase the risks posed to the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. Please visit our website and sign the petition to the City of Portland, Oregon DEQ, and the Army Corps of Engineers, and follow our weekly email alerts to keep up with actions to come.

Oregon PSR seeks oil train safety legislation that will bring us up to Washington’s and California’s standards. Our thanks to Dr. Maria McCormick and Dr. Theodora Tsongas, members of our Healthy Climate Action Team, who provided strong testimony in January legislative hearings. We continue working with Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Stand Up to Oil (SUTO) partners to mitigate the enormous risks posed by unsafe oil trains, inadequate emergency response time and preparation, and lack of financial accountability.

We’re working with SUTO partners in SW Washington to encourage the City of Vancouver and the Port of Vancouver to prohibit dangerous fossil fuel projects. Please visit our website to learn more and to sign our petition.

Powering Past Fracked Gas

We estimate that over 50,000 comments were submitted to the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) in opposition to the removal-fill permit for the Jordan Cove LNG Export Terminal and Pacific Connector Pipeline in southern Oregon. Oregon PSR submitted detailed technical comments and petition statements from our members.

Over 2,000 attended hearings, including ranchers, tribal members, health professionals, impacted landowners, and young people.
who expressed their opposition. Huge thanks to ‘Folly of Frack’ thespians Dr. Kelly O’Hanley and Dr. Melanie Plaut and to all who wrote comments and attended hearings. This agency decision has been delayed due to the high volume and quality of the comments.

We’re so grateful to Senator Jeff Golden, all elected leaders, and Jackson County commissioners who have called on DSL to deny this key permit. In more good news, a judge in Douglas County issued a setback to the pipeline project in June by nullifying a county-issued permit.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) announced that it will release its Jordan Cove DEIS in late March, and we expect public hearings to be held in late June. We will support our SW Oregon partners and push for statewide hearings to include Portland. A final FERC EIS is scheduled for October 11th, with a decision to be published in January of next year.

The Power Past Fracked Gas coalition held a rally in Olympia in February and delivered nearly 150,000 comments to Governor Inslee. Oregon PSR’s Damon Motz-Storey, who also serves as Communications Director for the Power Past Fracked Gas coalition, covered the event live on Facebook and led a Twitter storm the following week. We continue to encourage Washington’s Governor Inslee to turn back climate-busting fracked gas projects in Kalama and Tacoma.

State Climate Legislation

Oregon PSR is fighting for climate legislation that is just, equitable, and which will dramatically decrease emissions over the next 12 years with full accountability to the public. We also support a stronger version of HB 2007 to protect health from dirty diesel. Please visit oregonpsr.org for continued updates and for opportunities to take action.

Thank you!
“Everything in moderation,” or so the phrase goes. It’s such a tantalizing idea: just a small amount of something is okay, maybe even good for you. We see this concept pop up often in health and nutrition: as long as we don’t binge on sweets, caffeine, or junk food, we’ll be alright.

The problem is that nuclear profiteers and their friends in elected office have picked up on this popular messaging and misapplied it to the highly dangerous process of nuclear fission, which is subatomically small but has huge consequences for human health and survival. The Trump Administration is pushing for ‘low-yield’ nuclear weapons in their latest Nuclear Posture Review. Trump’s Department of Energy has poured tens of millions of dollars into research and development for a never-before-deployed ‘small modular’ nuclear reactor design from Oregon’s NuScale Power. Trump’s Environmental Protection Agency is hiring and promoting the ideas of fringe scientists who believe that a little bit of radiation exposure is good for you (spoiler alert: it’s not).

None of these claims, of course, are scientifically sound. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists maintains that small nuclear weapons increase the threat of nuclear war, which at any scale represents a public health catastrophe and an existential threat to humankind. So-called ‘small modular reactor’ designs have ultimately failed in the past due to lack of market demand, deployability, and availability of much cheaper renewable power sources. And the widely upheld linear no-threshold model says that any amount of radiation exposure increases future risk of cancer development.

The pitfalls are out there: “Nuclear weapons are terrifying, but maybe small ones will keep us safe.” “I don’t like nuclear power, but if using a small amount of it helps us solve climate change, I’m willing to make that trade-off.” The truth is that these are false dichotomies, and they don’t take into account the sacrifice zones created by uranium mining and the production of highly radioactive nuclear waste or the countless innocent lives at risk from the threat of nuclear war. The most fundamental aspect of nuclear technology, indeed the reason that the United States pursued bomb development in World War II, is that a small atomic reaction can create an enormous amount of harm.

It is our responsibility as advocates for health to amplify the existential threat of nuclear weapons and nuclear power reactors of any size. The good news is that we don’t have to swallow the bitter small nuclear pill: we can live in world without nuclear weapons or nuclear power, and we can solve climate change with a just transition to 100% renewable power. By moving the needle on public opinion, a cascade of policy change could follow as states pressure the federal government to recognize the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and commit to a just transition away from extractive energy practices.
Oregon Needs a Green New Deal
Damon Motz-Storey, Clean Energy Organizer

As a new crop of progressive change agents assumed office in the US House of Representatives, one simple phrase began a meteoric rise to notoriety as youth activists lined the halls of incumbent Democrats pushing for action: a Green New Deal to echo the economic successes of FDR’s signature policy with a focus on the current urgent needs for environmental and social justice. With the Green New Deal, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the youngest woman ever to be elected to the US House of Representatives, and her colleagues have successfully brought broad, comprehensive climate policy conversations into the mainstream US political discourse.

I am in the same age range as Ms. Ocasio-Cortez and the youth who have been mobilizing with the Sunrise Movement nationwide since the 2018 elections. For as long as I can remember, I have heard about the urgency of taking action to preserve and protect health and survival from climate disruption, and I’ve stepped forward in ways that felt right. That’s why it is so incredibly moving to be a part of Oregon PSR’s endorsement of an Oregon Green New Deal that details the ways that our state can be a part of drastically reducing greenhouse gas pollution and investing in the communities who are on the front lines of climate disruption.

The Oregon Green New Deal outlines seven key areas in which we should act:

1. Phase out fossil fuel infrastructure
2. Strong regulation for healthy, breathable air
3. Clean, community-controlled, 100% renewable energy
4. Sustainable farm and forest practices
5. Justice reforms throughout our transportation sector
6. Protect communities that are already being harmed by climate change
7. Fund a just transition to train workers for an equitable renewable energy economy

This ambitious platform will require many different actions over a long period of time. But we have already started: the Portland Clean Energy Initiative is investing in jobs and communities most impacted by climate change. We are hard at work with our partners to stop major fossil fuel infrastructure and clean up Oregon’s airsheds. Over time, and with collaboration, we can make a Green New Deal for Oregon that ensures a healthy climate future for all.
Portland voters made history in November 2018: Measure 26-201 passed by 65%, making the Portland Clean Energy Initiative the first Oregon environmental initiative created and led by communities of color. We were pleased to support this measure by gathering signatures, getting out the vote, and adding capacity to the campaign’s Steering Committee, field team, and communications team, as well as publishing a new report detailing the initiative’s remedies to existing health inequities.

Now, the City of Portland is working with the coalition that passed Measure 26-201 to implement this first-of-its-kind climate justice initiative. Leaders from communities on the front lines of climate change continue to be at the helm of this innovative effort to fund green jobs and healthy homes for all Portlanders.

Here is what to expect as the Portland Clean Energy Fund gets off the ground:

- Program staff will be hired by the City of Portland’s Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to support and run the clean energy grant program
- Diverse residents of Portland will be recruited to fill a nine-
Donor Spotlight: Ann Turner, MD, Leadership Circle Member

Ann Turner, MD, a member of Oregon PSR’s Healthy Climate Action Team, served for over two decades as one of the Medical Directors of the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center in Oregon. As a Healthy Climate Action Team member, Ann has provided testimony against many of the dangerous fossil fuel projects proposed in our region. She was also involved with ballot measure campaigns during the November 2018 Oregon election, in which the Portland Clean Energy Initiative passed and many dangerous statewide measures were defeated, including the anti-immigrant Measure 105. Continuing one of her passions, Ann now volunteers at Virginia Garcia working to improve care for patients with diabetes.

Ann recognizes that climate change is the most important issue we face. She supports Oregon PSR financially as a member of our Leadership Circle because she believes in our organization’s science-based approach to healthy climate projects that also focus on building partnerships with other local organizations. She is excited to have the opportunity to work with the great staff and other volunteers at Oregon PSR to prevent new fossil fuel projects in our communities and provide a just transition to clean energy.

Become an Oregon PSR Sustaining Member!

An easy way to support Oregon PSR throughout the year is by setting up recurring monthly donations. Recurring monthly donations from our Sustaining Members help us plan our work, and it’s a hassle-free way for you to support our efforts for a more healthy, just, and peaceful world year-round.

Visit oregonpsr.org/recurring_donation to become a Sustaining Member. You can update or cancel your recurring monthly donation at any time. For more information, contact Sean Tenney, Associate Director, at 503-274-2720 or sean@oregonpsr.org.
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Help Us Conserve Resources
To receive this newsletter by email rather than by postal mail to help us reduce resource use, email us at info@oregonpsr.org. Thank you!

2019 Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Please join us, the high school student winners of our 2019 Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship, and our keynote speaker Dr. Brian Gibbs, Vice President for Equity and Inclusion at Oregon Health & Science University, for an evening of reflection and engagement on systemic racism, health, and peace.

Friday, April 26th, 2019, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Celebration Tabernacle Church
8131 North Denver Avenue in Portland

In its eleventh consecutive year in 2019, the Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship is an opportunity to hear from young Oregonians on some of the most pressing issues of our time.

The question for Oregon high school 11th and 12th grade students to answer this year is: “How can you work against systemic racism to help make our world more healthy and peaceful?”

We received a record-breaking 226 entries from high school juniors and seniors from throughout Oregon, and we hope that you will join us in hearing the thoughts of Oregon’s youth regarding the pressing issue of systemic racism and its effects on human health.

Special thank you to our 2019 writing scholarship judges:

Robert Goldman, MD, Oregon PSR Peace Working Group Member; Shea Lott, PhD, Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Professor at OHSU; Olivia Olivia, writer and poet; Anissa Pemberton, Justice-based Transition & Equity Organizer at 350PDX and Funds Development Director at PDX Alliance for Self Care; and Janaira Ramirez, Oregon Just Transition Alliance Organizer at OPAL

This event is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be available. Donations to support Oregon PSR will be gratefully accepted. We look forward to seeing you on Friday, April 26th!