December, 4th, 2024

Massachusetts Warheads to Windmills Coalition

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Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon St.
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Maura Healey,

We, the undersigned organizations, faith leaders and elected officials, representing concerned citizens from across the commonwealth, write to ask you to establish, by executive order, an **Advisory Committee on Nuclear Weapons and Climate Change.**

In 1985, Governor Dukakis established, by [Executive Order 254,](https://www.mass.gov/executive-orders/no-254-governors-advisory-committee-on-the-impact-of-the-nuclear-arms-race-on-massachusetts) an Advisory Committee on Nuclear Weapons, to address the threat posed by the nuclear arms race to the residents of Massachusetts. Since then, the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons and the lack of progress in addressing this threat has continued to raise serious concerns.

The [Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' "Doomsday Clock"](https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/timeline/) was moved forward in 2018 to 2 minutes to midnight, the closest it has been to midnight since 1953 and closer, even, than during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. The clock has continued to move closer to midnight since then, sitting now at 90 seconds to midnight due to the “many dimensions of nuclear threat” as well as “an ominous climate change outlook.” The atomic scientists who gave us the atom bomb think we are in more danger of a nuclear war than ever before. A new nuclear arms race is upon us with American nuclear spending leading the way while we are grossly behind our global goals in renewable energy efforts and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We are, of course, encouraged by steps that have been taken, both by the commonwealth and by the federal government, to address the threat posed by climate change. We are especially excited by the establishment of the **Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience** that you established on your first day as Governor. And yet the reality is that the threat of climate change is only getting worse globally and the people of Massachusetts remain unconvinced that we are doing enough as a nation to address this threat.

This is why we have been calling for the Commonwealth to establish a Citizens Commission on Nuclear Weapons and Climate Change. Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa and Sen. Jo Comerford have introduced versions of this commission bill in the past three legislative sessions, where they have garnered considerable support both inside and outside of the state house. The most recent iterations of the bills, [H.738](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H738/) and [S.1488](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S1488), were both voted favorably out of committee.

Nuclear weapons and climate change are both existential threats to every person in Massachusetts. An **Advisory Committee on Nuclear Weapons and Climate Change** could make Massachusetts an example to the rest of the country and the world in terms of managing the transition from an economy heavily reliant on the development, production and maintenance of nuclear weapons to an economy that is leading the way in green technologies and industries.

It could investigate and research the state’s involvement in the nuclear weapons industry, including what human and financial resources and skills could be effectively harnessed from that industry to address the climate crisis, and how to justly make that transition. By setting up an advisory committee and taking action on these issues now, you can help Massachusetts develop and implement leadership solutions to address the twin existential threats of nuclear weapons and climate change, which concern a [clear majority of citizens](https://masspeaceaction.org/new-poll-80-of-ma-democrats-support-bill-to-establish-a-ma-nuclear-weapons-commission/) across the commonwealth.

Thank you for your help with this, and for everything else you are, and have been, doing for the people of Massachusetts.

Yours,

The undersigned

**Legislators and other elected officials:**

Jim McGovern, **US Representative, MA 2nd District**

Jo Comerford, **State Senator, Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester**

Lindsay Sabadosa, **State Representative, 1st Hampshire**

Natalie Higgins, **State Representative, 4th Worcester**

Nicole LaChapelle, **Mayor, Easthampton**

Gina-Louise Sciarra, **Mayor, Northampton**

Joshua A. Garcia, **Mayor, Holyoke**

Tony Palomba, **City-Councilor-At-Large, Watertown**

Bob Armstrong, **Select Board Chair, Conway**

**Faith leaders:**

Martin Kelly, **Associate Chaplain, College of the Holy Cross**

The Rev. Dr. Peter Kakos, **First Churches, Northampton**

The Rev. Sarah Buteux, **First Churches, Northampton**

The Rev. Andrea Ayvazian

**MA-based organizations:**

**Massachusetts Peace Action**

**350 Mass**

**MA Pax Christi**

**Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility**

**Traprock Peace and Justice Center**

**Newton Chapter, Pax Christi**

**Pax Christi MetroWest, Boston Chapter**

**Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice, and the Environment**

**Newton Dialogues on Peace and War**

**St. Susanna Chapter, Pax Christi**

**Brookline Students for Nuclear Disarmament**

**NuclearBan.US**

**Demilitarize Western Mass**

**Climate Action Now, Western Mass**

**Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution**

**Better Future Project**

**Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network**

**Cape Downwinders**

**Arlington United for Justice with Peace**

**New England Peace Pagoda**

**Springfield Climate Justice Coalition**

**Framingham Friends Meeting**

**Northampton Friends Meeting**

**Pax Christi Western Mass**

**CodePink Western Mass**

**MA Green-Rainbow Party**

**Treaty Alignment Campaign**