

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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House of Representatives, February 16, 1989

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Ed Pert
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

A Resolution Regarding the Testing of Cruise Missiles in Maine



1 Whereas, the Federal Government plans to begin the testing
of sea-launched cruise missiles in Maine during the autumn of
3 1988 and continue such testing indefinitely into the 1990's; and

5 Whereas, the 2,800 pound missiles will fly at an altitude of
600 feet along most of the 295-mile path, beginning at the Maine
7 coast near Ellsworth, passing near Shin Pond, the border of
Baxter State Park, and within 15 miles of Millinocket, and ending
9 in the Rangeley area; and

11 Whereas, the plan to test cruise missiles over Maine has
drawn criticism from aviators, sportsmen, environmentalists, and
13 residents near the flight path because of problems associated
with the low altitude of the missiles; the high volume of
15 seaplane landings in the Shin Pond area; the increased noise
levels which will have a negative impact for both residents and
17 tourists; the risk of private aircraft flying in a missile's
flight path; and possible harmful consequences as a result of a
19 crash, including the potential loss of life and property, fires
caused by spilled fuel and the resulting impact on the State's
21 environment; and

23 Whereas, the Federal Government's plan to test cruise
missiles has apparently not been coordinated with projects of
25 other federal agencies, including the Army's recent plans to
expand a military training flight route over northern Maine,
27 which would include the enlargement of an existing low-level
training route from 10 to 20 miles in width; and

29 Whereas, the sea-launched cruise missile is currently a
31 major obstacle to completing a strategic arms reduction treaty
because it is difficult to verify; and

33 Whereas, the sea-launched cruise missile is undermining the
35 completed Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, because by
deploying the missile off the shores of Europe, it simply
37 replaces the weapons scheduled for dismantlement; and

39 Whereas, the scheduled deployment of 4,000 sea-launched
cruise missiles, at a cost of \$1,500,000 each, increases the
41 likelihood of nuclear war because of their deadly accuracy and
capability to elude radar; and

43 Whereas, the Governor is the elected statewide official most
45 responsible for protecting the interests of Maine and
representing the sentiment of its citizens; now, therefore, be it

47 Resolved: That the people of Maine do not wish their State
49 to participate in the testing of cruise missiles and hereby call
upon the Governor to intervene with the Federal Government to
51 stop the testing of cruise missiles in Maine.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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5 The purpose of this resolution is to demonstrate that the
7 people of Maine do not want the testing of sea-launched cruise
9 missiles, Tomahawks, in the State. The testing of the low-flying
11 cruise with two trailing F-111 jets is being carried out so the
13 United States can move forward with a planned deployment of 4,000
15 Tomahawks. Twenty percent of these will be equipped with nuclear
17 weapons. The Soviet Union has called for stringent limits placed
19 on the sea-launched missiles of both sides. Paul Nitze, a key
21 Reagan arms control advisor, has urged the complete elimination
23 of all nuclear-armed cruise missiles because massive deployments
25 of the weapon would benefit the Soviets more than the United
States. United States negotiators, however, have rejected any
constraints on the missile because the United States is currently
ahead of the Soviets in cruise technology. This is the kind of
thinking that fuels the arms race. One side is ahead and does
not want to give up its advantage -- but the other side always
catches up. Stopping the tests here will not stop the cruise
missile program, but it could send a message to Washington that
people would rather eliminate sea-launched cruise missiles on
both sides then spend billions of dollars on a dangerous, useless
weapon.

27 Through this referendum, Mainers have a unique opportunity
29 to state unequivocally to the Governor that we choose not to
31 participate in this destabilizing escalation of the nuclear arms
race, that we want the tranquility of Maine preserved, and that
we want him to take the lead in seeing that the wishes of his
constituents are carried out.