## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MEDIA ADVISORY: 22 PROTESTERS ARRESTED AT BATH IRON WORKS WAR SHIP CELEBRATION CALLING ATTENTION TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Bath, June 22 -- Twenty-two protesters who were blocking buses bringing guests to General Dynamics' Bath Iron Works shipyard were arrested in Bath and charged with obstructing a public way.

Nine of those arrested declined bail, asked to be released on their own recognizance, and were denied. They are currently held at the Two Bridges Regional Jail in Wiscasset, pending a possible hearing Monday June 24 at the District Court in West Bath: Jim Freeman, Sadie Fulton, Bruce Gagnon, Ken Jones, Natasha Mayers, George Ostensen, Dixie Searway, Mary Beth Sullivan, and Russell Wray.

Thirteen of those charged were released on bail pending arraignment August 6 at the District Court in West Bath: Ashley Bahlkow, Sophia Bahlkow, Dan Ellis, Ridgeley Fuller, Dud Hendrick, Cynthia Howard, Damon Howard, Connie Jenkins, Richard Lethem, Mark Roman, Lisa Savage, Robert Shetterly, and Will Thomas.

Video of some of the arrests is <u>available here</u> on Peaceworks Maine's YouTube channel.

"We engaged in civil resistance to underscore our conversion demand. BIW should be helping to solve the climate crisis, not building weapons that make the problem worse," said Mark Roman of Solon, one of those arrested.

The protests today were part of an ongoing Conversion Campaign in Maine. Recent events include a <u>news conference</u> at the Portland Public Library on June 21 and <u>presentation</u> at Portland Pecha Kucha EARTH on June 6. On April 27, 2019 there were 25 protesters were arrested and charged with obstructing a public way. Sagadahoc County District Attorney Natasha Irving did not prosecute the 25; it was reported in the press that she considered such cases a drain on the limited resources of her staff.

Organizations sponsoring the June 22 protests and resistance include Americans Who Tell the Truth, Citizens Opposing Active Sonar Threats (COAST), Durham Quaker Meeting, Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, Island Peace & Justice, Maine Independent Green Party, Maine Natural Guard, Maine Veterans for Peace, Maine War Tax Resistance Resource Center, Midcoast Peace & Justice Group, Pax Christi Maine, Peace Action Maine, Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, Peace & Justice Group of Waldo County, PeaceWorks of Greater Brunswick, Peninsula Peace & Justice, and 350 Maine. ##

Today, 22 activists were arrested in Bath at a demonstration as a warship "Christening" audience was being assembled. Details will be reveled at a hearing, possibly this Monday at the District Court in West Bath. The nine, currently held at the Two Bridges Regional Jail in Wiscasset might be addressed via video connection.

Those nine are: Bruce Gagnon Mary Beth Sullivan George Ostensen Dixie Searway Jim Freeman Russell Wray Ken Jones Sadie Fulton Natasha Mayers

Thirteen released for hearings in August are: Cynthia Howard Damon Howard Lisa Savage Mark Roman Will Thomas Dan Ellis Richard Lethem Connie Jenkins Dud Hendrick Rob Shutterly Ridgeley Fuller Ashley Bahlkow and sister Sophia