Christopher Paine - Short Bio:

From 2007-2014, Christopher Paine directed the Nuclear Program of the Natural Resources Defense Council from its office in Washington, DC, retiring from NRDC in April 2015. He joined NRDC as a Senior Researcher in June 1991 after five years with Senator Edward M. Kennedy, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he helped to wage and win the classified internal government debate on the technical feasibility of ending US reliance on nuclear explosive tests, ultimately overcoming the false narrative provided by DOE and nuclear weapons laboratory leadership, while also helping to guide congressional and international citizen scientist initiatives to end underground nuclear test explosions and US-Russian production of plutonium for weapons.

Prior to joining Senator Kennedy’s staff, Christopher was a consultant to Princeton University’s Project on Nuclear Policy Alternatives, a research fellow at the Federation of American Scientists and MIT’s Center for International Studies, a staff consultant for nuclear nonproliferation policy with the House Subcommittee on Energy, Conservation & Power, and a co-founder of national grass roots campaigns in the 1980’s to enact a comprehensive nuclear weapons freeze and stop deployment of the MX intercontinental ballistic missile. He is the author or co-author of numerous NRDC reports, as well as scores of peer-reviewed articles and scholarly reports for other organizations on nuclear weapons proliferation, nuclear power, and US national security policy.

Born in Baltimore, he grew up in Maine, Vermont, New York City, and Dallas, and is a 1974 graduate of Harvard University. Christopher has long-standing ties to Northern New Mexico, where his parents lived from 1971 – 2008, and he has been a long-time friend and collaborator of Nuclear Watch NM in its efforts to restrain flawed and wasteful nuclear weapons projects, compel cleanup of the nuclear weapons complex, and redirect the national laboratories to more productive and peaceful missions. Chris is married to Dr. Katherine Magraw, a nuclear arms control activist and former Clinton State Dept. official who helped to negotiate the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. They currently reside in Charlottesville, VA.