
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8014

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session
By Senators McCoy, Ericksen, Billig, and Chase

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, In 1945, the first nuclear weapons were produced by the
10 United States; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1954, the atomic energy act was passed by Congress
12 directing the federal government to promote the peaceful use of atomic
13 energy with the understanding that disposal of the highly radioactive
14 waste produced would be the responsibility of the federal government;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In 1956, the national academy of sciences recommended deep
17 geologic disposal of the long-lived, highly radioactive wastes from
18 nuclear reactors, suggesting that buried salt deposits and other rock
19 types be investigated for permanent repositories; and

1 WHEREAS, During the 1970s, the federal government began screening
2 sites to be developed for a high-level radioactive waste repository;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Congress passed the nuclear waste policy act of 1982,
5 which established a repository site screening process and a schedule
6 leading to federal waste acceptance for disposal beginning in 1998; and

7 WHEREAS, During the 1980s, the department of energy named
8 potentially acceptable repository sites only to postpone the
9 authorization for site development; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1987, Congress adopted the nuclear waste policy
11 amendments act; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1989, the secretary of energy determined that the
13 nuclear waste program would not succeed and developed a new strategy
14 that called for waste acceptance beginning at a repository in 2003; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout the 1990s, Congress, the department of energy,
16 and the environmental protection agency all worked to develop a
17 successful nuclear waste repository program; and

18 WHEREAS, The yucca mountain nuclear waste repository was designated
19 to be a deep geological repository storage facility for spent nuclear
20 reactor fuel and other high-level radioactive waste; and

21 WHEREAS, Federal funding for the development of the yucca mountain
22 nuclear waste repository ended in 2010; and

23 WHEREAS, The blue ribbon commission, established by the secretary
24 of energy, released a final report on January 26, 2012, that contained
25 many recommendations for nuclear waste repository development; and

26 WHEREAS, For over fifty years, the citizens across the United
27 States have not had any long-term storage site for the high-level
28 radioactive waste that is currently stored on-site at various nuclear
29 facilities around the country;

30 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress,
31 the department of energy, and the environmental protection agency
32 establish and develop a site for the permanent siting and development
33 of a federal nuclear waste repository.

34 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
35 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
36 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
37 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of

1 Washington, and the Secretary of the United States Department of
2 Energy.

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