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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8014

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators McCoy, Ericksen, Billig, and Chase

Read first time 01/30/14. Referred to Committee on Energy, Environment & Telecommunications.

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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