
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8000

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senator Brown

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE 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,
8 respectfully 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
13 atomic energy with the understanding that disposal of the highly
14 radioactive waste produced would be the responsibility of the federal
15 government; and

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

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

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

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

8 WHEREAS, In 1987, Congress adopted the nuclear waste policy
9 amendments act; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Federal funding for the development of the Yucca
22 mountain 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
25 contained many recommendations for nuclear waste repository
26 development; and

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

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

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

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

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