
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8018

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Brown and Schoesler

Read first time 01/16/20. Referred to Committee on Environment,
Energy & Technology.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, 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 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, AND TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE
6 UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, During the 1970s, the federal government began screening
22 sites to be developed for a high-level radioactive waste repository;
23 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, The United States general accounting office reports that
28 within the United States there are ninety thousand metric tons of
29 nuclear waste needing disposal; and

30 WHEREAS, The United States general accounting office reports that
31 nuclear waste from spent nuclear fuel from the commercial power
32 industry, stored across the United States at the eighty different
33 sites where it was generated, is expected to increase; and

34 WHEREAS, The United States general accounting office states there
35 are sixteen department of energy sites that remain to be cleaned up
36 across the nation; and

37 WHEREAS, Decades and billions of dollars have been spent to
38 research potential sites for a permanent disposal site; and

39 WHEREAS, For over fifty years, the citizens across the United
40 States have not had any long-term storage site for the high-level

1 radioactive waste that is currently stored on-site at various nuclear
2 facilities around the country;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that
4 Congress, the department of energy, and the environmental protection
5 agency establish and develop a site for the permanent siting and
6 development of a federal nuclear waste repository.

7 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
8 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United
9 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
10 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State
11 of Washington, and to the Secretary of the United States Department
12 of Energy, and to the Administrator of the United States
13 Environmental Protection Agency.

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