

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10—SENATORS SHAFFER, AMODEI,
O'DONNELL AND WASHINGTON

MARCH 15, 2001

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to require implementation of certain safety precautions if Federal Government locates repository for storage of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel in Nevada. (BDR R-1247)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to require the implementation of certain safety precautions if the Federal Government locates a repository for the storage of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel in Nevada.

1 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as
2 amended by Congress in 1987, the Federal Government is considering a
3 site in Nevada for the location of a geologic repository for the storage of
4 high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel; and
5 WHEREAS, If such a repository is ultimately located in Nevada, at least
6 77,000 metric tons of hazardous radioactive materials would be transported
7 through and stored for not less than 10,000 years in this state; and
8 WHEREAS, Such transportation and storage of those deadly radioactive
9 substances in Nevada would create a substantial risk of their emission into
10 the air, soil and ground water of this state and pose a serious long-term
11 threat to the health of the residents of this state and the welfare of its
12 economy; and
13 WHEREAS, The extremely hazardous and long-lived nature of those
14 substances make it necessary to ensure that any procedures, facilities and
15 equipment that may be used for their transportation and storage meet
16 highly stringent, continuing standards for containment and safety; and
17 WHEREAS, If the Federal Government ultimately locates a repository for
18 the storage of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel in
19 Nevada, Congress should at the very least ensure that certain safety
20 precautions are carried out to protect the residents and environment of this
21 state from radiological contamination and allow appropriate public and
22 state governmental review of the operation of the repository; now,
23 therefore, be it



1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
2 JOINTLY, That the members of the 71st session of the Nevada Legislature
3 do hereby urge the Congress of the United States, if the Federal
4 Government locates a repository for the storage of high-level radioactive
5 waste and spent nuclear fuel in the State of Nevada, to take such actions as
6 are necessary to ensure that:
7 1. Each container used for the storage of high-level radioactive waste
8 or spent nuclear fuel at or in the repository is placed in a manner that
9 allows for the safe retrieval of the container for maintenance;
10 2. A facility is located contiguous to the repository which is capable of
11 safely retrieving, repairing and replacing those containers;
12 3. The repository contains a system for monitoring those containers
13 which:
14 (a) Provides for the continuous monitoring of every exterior surface of
15 every container; and
16 (b) Allows any member of the general public to view at any time each
17 monitoring device and container through a website on the Internet;
18 4. Representatives of appropriate agencies of this state have complete
19 and unrestricted access to all locations and records necessary to confirm
20 the safety of the repository;
21 5. No member of the general public receives, as a result of the
22 management and storage of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear
23 fuel inside and outside of the repository and all of its associated facilities,
24 any exposure to radionuclides in excess of:
25 (a) Four millirems per year to the whole body or any single organ
26 through the normal consumption and other use of any ground water; or
27 (b) An annual committed effective dose equivalent of 15 millirems; and
28 6. No high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel is transported
29 to the repository through any area which is located within 10 miles of any
30 city or unincorporated town in this state whose population is 3,000 or
31 more; and be it further
32 RESOLVED, That it is the intention of the Nevada Legislature that this
33 resolution must not be construed in such a manner as to indicate that the
34 Nevada Legislature or the State of Nevada explicitly or impliedly consents
35 to the location of a repository for the storage of high-level radioactive
36 waste and spent nuclear fuel anywhere in the State of Nevada; and be it
37 further
38 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy
39 of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding
40 officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each
41 member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further
42 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

