

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11—SENATORS PORTER, TITUS,  
WASHINGTON, CARE, O’CONNELL, RAWSON, AMODEI, COFFIN,  
JAMES, MCGINNESS, RHOADS, SHAFFER AND WIENER

MARCH 15, 2001

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYMAN PERKINS

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to direct appropriate federal agencies to prepare environmental impact statement relating to transportation of nuclear waste materials to Yucca Mountain. (BDR R-1244)

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 direct the appropriate federal agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement relating to the transportation of nuclear waste materials to Yucca Mountain.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature and an overwhelming majority of
- 2 the residents of Nevada adamantly and unyieldingly oppose the permanent
- 3 storage of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel at the
- 4 proposed high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain,
- 5 Nevada; and
- 6 WHEREAS, In conducting the work relating to site suitability, the United
- 7 States Department of Energy has issued the Yucca Mountain Draft
- 8 Environmental Impact Statement for review and comment by the general
- 9 public and governmental agencies; and
- 10 WHEREAS, A review of the Yucca Mountain Draft Environmental
- 11 Impact Statement performed by the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects
- 12 finds that the analysis for transporting nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain,
- 13 Nevada, from numerous sites throughout the nation is severely deficient;
- 14 and
- 15 WHEREAS, Despite the identification by the Nevada Agency for Nuclear
- 16 Projects of serious flaws in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
- 17 which the Legislature and the residents of Nevada believe disqualify Yucca
- 18 Mountain as a repository site, the United States Department of Energy



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1 continues with site characterization studies to justify the suitability of this  
2 unsatisfactory site; and

3 WHEREAS, If the study of the environmental impact were addressed  
4 properly, it would provide a preponderance of evidence that, as we believe  
5 in Nevada, the shipment of this highly dangerous material through 43 states  
6 to Nevada would result in significantly more harm to the nation's health  
7 and welfare than any benefits derived from the proposed Yucca Mountain  
8 repository; and

9 WHEREAS, Before a Yucca Mountain site recommendation is  
10 considered by the Secretary of Energy and possibly forwarded to the  
11 President and Congress, it is critical that the realistic short-term and  
12 cumulative dangers to public health and welfare from shipping 77,000 tons  
13 of highly radioactive waste across the nation over a 28-year shipping  
14 period be made known to the estimated 53 million residents of the United  
15 States who may be placed in harm's way from this ill-conceived project;  
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,  
18 JOINTLY, That the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada strongly  
19 urge Congress to direct the appropriate federal agencies, the Department of  
20 Energy, Department of Transportation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
21 and Environmental Protection Agency, to prepare an environmental impact  
22 statement relating to the potential highway routes and railroad routes for  
23 the transportation of nuclear waste to provide a realistic review and  
24 analysis of the resulting health hazards to the general public and of the  
25 environmental impact along those specific transportation corridors under  
26 consideration; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the environmental impact statement include, without  
28 limitation:

29 1. The possible impact that transporting high-level radioactive waste  
30 along the potential highway routes and railroad routes will have on persons  
31 who reside along the proposed routes;

32 2. The number of schools that will be affected and the manner in  
33 which they will be affected;

34 3. The manner in which water systems will be affected; and

35 4. A descriptive list of the agencies that will be responsible for  
36 handling spills; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That the results of the requested federal environmental  
38 impact statement be widely distributed and that a sufficient number of  
39 public hearings be conducted at appropriate locations along the designated  
40 routes to ensure that the affected populations are fully informed of the  
41 impact that may result from the proposed campaign to transport a high  
42 volume of nuclear waste over the course of decades; and be it further

43 RESOLVED, That the environmental impact statement for the  
44 transportation corridors be completed and included with a Yucca Mountain  
45 site recommendation report from the United States Department of Energy  
46 to the President, and by the President to Congress; and be it further



1       RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy  
2 of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding  
3 officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each  
4 member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further  
5       RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

