

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4—SENATORS O'DONNELL, NEAL,
JACOBSEN, RAWSON, AMODEL, CARE, CARLTON, MCGINNESS,
O'CONNELL, SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER AND WASHINGTON

FEBRUARY 21, 2001

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN GUSTAVSON, BEERS, CHOWNING,
ARBERRY, COLLINS, MARVEL AND PARKS

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Urges Governor to designate alternative routes for transportation of nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. (BDR R-1185)

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 the Governor to designate alternative routes for the transportation of nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Federal Government has placed Nevada in the Nuclear
2 Waste Policy Act of 1982 as the only site to be characterized for the
3 storage of nuclear waste, and in order to remove Nevada from that Act,
4 there will need to be at least 51 votes in the Senate and 218 votes in the
5 House of Representatives to select another state for the storage of nuclear
6 waste; and
7 WHEREAS, On no fewer than three occasions, Congress has voted to
8 place the interim storage of nuclear waste in Nevada with an affirmative
9 vote in the Senate by almost two-thirds of its members, just shy of a veto-
10 sustaining majority; and
11 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Energy is approaching the
12 final stages of the technical characterization of Yucca Mountain as a
13 repository for high-level nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel; and
14 WHEREAS, The transportation of nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel is
15 a detriment to traffic flow and could slow commuter traffic; and
16 WHEREAS, The transportation and handling of these materials is, in fact,
17 very dangerous in many respects; and
18 WHEREAS, It is generally considered by all transportation experts that
19 transportation of dangerous and hazardous materials is safest when such
20 materials are transported by rail, and transportation of these large canisters



1 of waste around our cities by rail is the method preferred by the residents
2 of Nevada; and

3 WHEREAS, It is of the utmost importance to the State of Nevada to
4 protect the health and safety of its residents and to protect the economic
5 base of this state; and

6 WHEREAS, Over 1.5 million people currently reside in the Las Vegas
7 Valley, and that area continues to be one of the fastest growing areas of the
8 nation; and

9 WHEREAS, The protection of Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Valley is
10 essential to the present and future economic well-being of Nevada; and

11 WHEREAS, Both the perception and the reality associated with the
12 transportation of high-level nuclear waste materials through the Las Vegas
13 Valley will provide adverse impacts on Las Vegas and Nevada highways;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In the event that the United States Congress declares Yucca
16 Mountain to be a suitable site for a high-level radioactive waste repository,
17 it is imperative that a plan be in place for alternative routes for the
18 transportation of nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
20 JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature requests and urges that the
21 Governor of the State of Nevada take action under current regulations of
22 the United States Department of Transportation which allow him to
23 designate alternative highway routes and thereby designate alternative
24 routes that are designed to avoid the southern Nevada metropolitan area;
25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the United States Department of Energy is hereby
27 urged to locate an alternate route to Yucca Mountain from an existing
28 railroad mainline and to build a railroad to Yucca Mountain which avoids
29 entirely the southern Nevada metropolitan area; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy
31 of this resolution to Governor Kenny C. Guinn, the Secretary of Energy
32 and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it
33 further

34 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

