

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2—Committee
on Legislative Operations and Elections

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Office of the Attorney General, the Agency for Nuclear Projects and the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct a joint investigation into whether Nevada could potentially receive monetary compensation from the Federal Government for contamination as a result of certain military exercises, nuclear weapons testing and other activities conducted by the Federal Government in Nevada, to the extent that such an investigation would not cost those agencies any money or resources.

WHEREAS, The Federal Government has conducted numerous activities and military exercises in Nevada that have resulted in the contamination of the environment of this State with radioactive material and other hazardous contaminants; and

WHEREAS, The Armed Forces of the United States have conducted military exercises in multiple geographic regions of Nevada using ammunition, weaponry and other military equipment that were composed, in part, of depleted uranium, a high-density, radioactive material that is a by-product of the uranium enrichment process, much of which remains as radioactive debris in the Nevada landscape; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Test Site, which is located in Nye County, Nevada, approximately 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, was established by the Federal Government in 1950 for the purposes of detonating nuclear devices and conducting other related nuclear tests in connection with the research and development of nuclear weapons for use by the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, From 1951 until 1992, the Federal Government conducted 100 atmospheric nuclear tests and 828 underground nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site, which resulted in the detonation of 1,021 nuclear devices; and

WHEREAS, Each detonation of a nuclear device at the Nevada Test Site produced nuclear fallout consisting of hundreds of different kinds of radioactive isotopes and left behind vast quantities of radioactive materials, waste and debris, including millions of curies of uranium, thorium, iodine, cobalt, tritium, plutonium and other radionuclides; and



WHEREAS, The detonation of nuclear devices in the atmosphere caused millions of curies of radionuclides to be dispersed over a large geographic area of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Approximately one-third of the underground nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site were conducted directly in aquifers, and many other underground tests were conducted above the water table; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Energy has estimated that nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site left behind more than 300 million curies of radionuclides, making the site one of the most radioactively contaminated places in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since 1961, Area 5 and Area 3 within the Nevada Test Site have been primary storage and disposal sites of the Federal Government for low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Test Site continues to be used for activities unrelated to nuclear weapons testing, including, without limitation, hazardous chemical spill testing, emergency response training, conventional weapons testing and waste management studies; and

WHEREAS, The aforementioned activities of the Federal Government in Nevada have had a deleterious effect on the environment of this State and have resulted in the contamination of the surface, subsurface, groundwater and aquifers of a large geographic area of Nevada with radioactive and other hazardous contaminants; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Office of the Attorney General, the Agency for Nuclear Projects and the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources be directed to conduct a joint investigation into whether Nevada could potentially receive monetary compensation from the Federal Government for contamination of the environment in Nevada with radioactive and other hazardous contaminants as a result of military exercises, nuclear weapons testing and other activities conducted by the Federal Government in Nevada, to the extent that conducting such an investigation will not cost the agencies any additional money or resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Office of the Attorney General report the results of the investigation to the members of the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature; and be it further



RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Attorney General, the Executive Director of the Agency for Nuclear Projects and the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

20 ~~~~~ 11

