

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4—SENATOR OHRENSCHALL

MARCH 13, 2023

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges the Federal Government to use Yucca Mountain for the development and storage of renewable energy. (BDR R-888)

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 Federal Government to use Yucca Mountain for the development and storage of renewable energy.

1 WHEREAS, In 1987, Congress amended the Nuclear Waste
2 Policy Act of 1982, 42 U.S.C. §§ 10101 et seq., specifying Yucca
3 Mountain, located near Amargosa Valley, as the sole location for
4 the placement of a national repository for spent nuclear fuel and
5 high-level radioactive waste; and

6 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada has since opposed the
7 placement of a repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level
8 radioactive waste in the State due to the extremely dangerous nature
9 of such waste, the persistence of that danger for an extended period
10 of time, the potential harm to the environment of the State and
11 serious and unacceptable hazard to the health and welfare of the
12 people of Nevada that is posed by the placement of such a
13 repository in the State; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2021, the United States Government
15 Accountability Office released a report on commercial spent nuclear
16 fuel calling for congressional action to develop a permanent disposal
17 solution; and

18 WHEREAS, According to the report, Yucca Mountain is not a
19 socially or politically viable option for a repository because
20 Congress stopped funding for the activities for the repository in



1 2010, and the State of Nevada and several Native American tribes
2 are strongly opposed to the repository; and

3 WHEREAS, The report explains that Yucca Mountain is no
4 longer a sufficient site because the existing amount of spent nuclear
5 fuel exceeds the capacity of the site; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2021, the current presidential administration
7 announced its opposition to using Yucca Mountain as a repository
8 and instead plans to send nuclear waste to places where state, local
9 and tribal governments agree to accept nuclear waste; and

10 WHEREAS, During a visit to Nevada in 2021, Jennifer
11 Granholm, the current Secretary of the United States Department of
12 Energy, said that Yucca Mountain will not be a storage place for
13 nuclear waste; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2011, the United States Government
15 Accountability Office released a report identifying alternative uses
16 for Yucca Mountain, which included the development of renewable
17 energy; and

18 WHEREAS, In the report, experts noted that Yucca Mountain
19 could be used to develop geothermal energy, solar energy, wind
20 energy, carbon capture, compressed air storage, hydroelectric
21 energy storage, a renewable energy storage laboratory or a strategic
22 petroleum reserve; and

23 WHEREAS, The benefits of renewable energy include
24 eliminating greenhouse gas emissions, reducing air pollution,
25 diversifying energy supply to reduce dependence on imported fuels,
26 increasing local economic development and creating jobs in
27 manufacturing and energy in Amargosa Valley and nearby
28 communities; and

29 WHEREAS, There has been publicly-expressed interest in the
30 development of transmission lines in Amargosa Valley and nearby
31 communities which will support numerous renewable power
32 generation projects in need of energy storage; and

33 WHEREAS, The current presidential administration has a focus
34 on promoting renewable energy and energy storage and is advancing
35 several projects to develop sources of renewable energy and
36 methods of storing energy across the country; and

37 WHEREAS, The current presidential administration demonstrated
38 this commitment by working with federal agencies to improve
39 coordination and prioritize review for renewable energy projects;
40 now, therefore, be it

41 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
42 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 82nd Session of the
43 Nevada Legislature hereby urge the Federal Government to use
44 Yucca Mountain for the development and storage of renewable
45 energy; and be it further



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

