

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Reps. Howell, Wakeman, Eisen, Green, Rendon, Calley, Pohutsky, Cambensy, Sowerby, Hernandez, Garza, Leutheuser and Sabo offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to oppose Canada's consideration of
2 placing a permanent high-level radioactive waste storage site on
3 the shores of Lake Huron, to urge the United States Congress to
4 take every legal action possible to prevent the construction of any
5 underground high-level nuclear waste repository in the Great Lakes
6 basin, and to urge the Canadian government to prohibit a high-level
7 nuclear waste repository anywhere in the Great Lakes basin.

8 Whereas, The Canadian Nuclear Waste Management Organization
9 has chosen the township of Huron-Kinloss and the municipality of
10 South Bruce in southern Ontario as one of two finalists for a
11 possible long-term geological repository to bury and abandon
12 Canada's radioactive spent nuclear fuel, the most dangerous nuclear



1 waste. This proposed area along the shores of Lake Huron is
 2 approximately 120 miles upstream from the main drinking water
 3 intakes for southeast Michigan. Indeed, the Great Lakes provide
 4 drinking water to 40 million people on both the United States and
 5 Canadian borders; and

6 Whereas, The governments of Canada and the United States,
 7 under the *2012 Protocol Amending the Agreement Between Canada and*
 8 *the United States of America on Great Lakes Water Quality,*
 9 acknowledge the importance of anticipating, preventing, and
 10 responding to threats to the waters of the Great Lakes and share a
 11 responsibility and an obligation to protect the Great Lakes from
 12 contamination from various sources of pollution, including the
 13 leakage of nuclear waste from a high-level underground nuclear
 14 waste repository; and

15 Whereas, When the nearby Bruce Nuclear Generation Station was
 16 considered previously as a site for Canada's low- and intermediate-
 17 level radioactive nuclear waste, entities representing over 23
 18 million citizens passed numerous resolutions in the states of
 19 Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania,
 20 New York, and Ohio, and in the province of Ontario opposing any
 21 nuclear waste repository at the site; and

22 Whereas, Placing a deep geological repository near the Great
 23 Lakes is a high-risk venture with the potential of causing
 24 irreparable harm to millions of lives. Underground waste
 25 repositories have leaked in the past, costing billions of dollars
 26 to repair. Germany, for instance, is spending billions of dollars
 27 to dig up low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste that was
 28 stored in a salt mine due to leakage and other environmental
 29 concerns. In 2014, chemical reactions in a steel barrel full of



1 radioactive waste caused an explosion and fire at a low- and
 2 intermediate-level underground waste site in Carlsbad, New Mexico
 3 causing a cloud of radioactivity to be released at the surface. Not
 4 only did this put the health and safety of the public at risk, it
 5 cost taxpayers \$2 billion to clean up and repair. As demonstrated,
 6 low- and intermediate-level facilities have failed, and this high-
 7 level nuclear proposal provides no guarantee, whatsoever, to keep
 8 radioactive waste from our environment; and

9 Whereas, Placing a permanent high-level nuclear waste burial
 10 facility within the Great Lakes basin is ill-advised. The potential
 11 damage to the Great Lakes from any leak or breach of radioactivity
 12 far outweighs any benefits that could be derived from burying high-
 13 level radioactive waste at this site. The ecology of the Great
 14 Lakes, which is valuable beyond measure to the health and economic
 15 well-being of the entire region, should not be placed at risk by
 16 storing high-level radioactive waste within the Great Lakes
 17 watershed. Canada currently has an inventory of almost 2.9 million
 18 used nuclear fuel bundles stored above ground in wet pools and dry
 19 containers at the nuclear plant sites where the waste is generated,
 20 constituting 128 million pounds of highly radioactive material—a
 21 number that is growing; now, therefore, be it

22 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate
 23 concurring), That, in the strongest manner possible, we oppose the
 24 Nuclear Waste Management Organization's consideration of placing a
 25 high-level nuclear waste repository on the shores of Lake Huron;
 26 and be it further

27 Resolved, That we urge the United States Congress to take
 28 every legal action possible to oppose the construction of any
 29 underground high-level nuclear waste repository in the Great Lakes



1 basin; and be it further

2 Resolved, That we urge the Canadian government to prohibit the
3 siting and construction of a high-level nuclear waste repository
4 anywhere in the Great Lakes basin; and be it further

5 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
6 Prime Minister of Canada, Canada's Minister of Environment and
7 Climate Change, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Premier
8 of Ontario, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, the Canadian
9 Environmental Assessment Agency, the Speaker of the United States
10 House of Representatives, the President of the United States
11 Senate, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and
12 the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
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