**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO REGISTER THE STRONG OBJECTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S DECISION TO ABANDON YUCCA MOUNTAIN AS THE PREFERRED PERMANENT REPOSITORY FOR DEFENSE NUCLEAR WASTE AND COMMERCIAL SPENT FUEL.

Whereas, the Savannah River Site, having served for more than a half century as a production facility for materials utilized in the country’s nuclear‑weapons program, is a critical part of the United States government’s national defense infrastructure; and

Whereas, over the years, the citizens who reside in the two‑state region surrounding the Savannah River Site have expressed strong support and appreciation for the site’s mission and contributions to national security and for electric power produced by commercial nuclear plants in Georgia and South Carolina; and

Whereas, the federal government long has pledged that commercial spent nuclear fuel and high‑level defense nuclear waste such as that generated at the Savannah River Site would be permanently stored in a specially designed and constructed underground repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada; and

Whereas, the citizens of this State and region have fully and confidently relied on federal assurances that a permanent repository would be available; and

Whereas, the federal government has announced that it is abandoning plans to complete the permanent repository at Yucca Mountain in the Nevada desert and that an acceptable substitute option does not currently exist; and

Whereas, the federal government’s decision to abandon Yucca Mountain means the Savannah River Site may become a permanent repository for defense nuclear waste in violation of long‑standing federal assurances to the contrary; and

Whereas, permanent storage of defense nuclear waste in our State is not compatible with the best interests of our citizens, our economic future, or our image as a great place to live and work. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, register their strong objection to the federal government’s decision to abandon Yucca Mountain as the preferred permanent repository for defense nuclear waste and commercial spent fuel.

Be it further resolved that the members of the South Carolina General Assembly call upon the United States Department of Energy, the Congress, and the Administration to continue development of Yucca Mountain as the preferred option for permanent storage of defense nuclear waste and commercial spent fuel.

Be it further resolved that the members of the South Carolina General Assembly call upon these entities to explore ways and means to continue the funding of $150 million in the fiscal year 2011 budget for the review of the Yucca Mountain license application and future activities of the nuclear‑waste disposal program.

Be it further resolved that the members of the South Carolina General Assembly call upon the Department of Energy to assure the citizens of this State that the federal government will honor its long‑standing commitment to provide for permanent nuclear‑waste storage in an approved facility.

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of South Carolina’s Congressional Delegation.

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