

A resolution

memorializing Congress regarding nuclear waste storage.

WHEREAS, nuclear powered electric generating facilities are located in Minnesota at Monticello and Red Wing; and

WHEREAS, spent nuclear fuel is currently being stored in dry casks only 600 yards from the Prairie Island Indian Community; and

WHEREAS, dry cask storage will be required to continue to operate the Monticello nuclear plant after the expiration of its current license; and

WHEREAS, continued storage of spent nuclear fuel in dry casks at Prairie Island and Monticello is not in the best interests of the citizens of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) established policy that the federal government is responsible for safe, permanent disposal in a geologic repository of all high-level radioactive waste, including spent nuclear fuel from commercial power reactors; and

WHEREAS, the 109th Congress failed to enact a budget for the nuclear waste disposal program for the current fiscal year and took no action on proposed legislation to reform the Nuclear Waste Fund to provide more reliable financing of the repository program; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Accountability for Nuclear Waste Storage Act of 2007 (S. 784) has been introduced in this Congress requiring the federal government to assume legal ownership of all spent nuclear fuel in the country and providing for the transfer of nuclear waste to dry casks on the site of nuclear generating facilities; and

H.F. No. 2436, as introduced - 85th Legislative Session (2007-2008)

2.1 WHEREAS, the Department of Energy (DOE) now indicates that in order to begin
2.2 repository waste disposal no sooner than 2017, 19 years past the NWPA statutory mandate,
2.3 DOE will need to submit a construction application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by
2.4 June 2008; and

2.5 WHEREAS, in order to meet the 2008 license application milestone, the president's budget
2.6 for fiscal year 2008 requests \$202.5 million from the Nuclear Waste Fund and \$292 million from
2.7 the Defense Waste Fund; NOW, THEREFORE,

2.8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it hereby urges the
2.9 United States Congress to fully appropriate the \$494.5 million budget request for the civilian
2.10 radioactive waste management program.

2.11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation that will enable
2.12 repository appropriations to match annual Nuclear Waste Fund fee revenue with any surplus
2.13 being assured for future availability.

2.14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Minnesota opposes S.
2.15 784 and any proposal for the federal government to take title to spent nuclear fuel in this state if
2.16 the effect of such an action would be to assure that spent nuclear fuel would be kept in Minnesota.

2.17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is
2.18 directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President and the Secretary of
2.19 the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives,
2.20 and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.