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NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas



NCSL Goals

• To improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures

To foster interstate communication and cooperation

• To ensure legislatures a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system



We Take Ideas to Washington DC

- Lobbying
 - The states' most effective advocate

Testifying

- Collaborating
 - Teaming up with governors, mayors, county officials and tribal leaders



Governing NCSL

- NCSL is a bi-partisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories.
- The National Conference of State Legislatures' Executive Committee is the governing body of the Conference.
- The executive committee is an elected body composed of 60 members: seven officers; 30 at-large legislator members; four regional legislators from the Council of State Government; three ex officio members; and 16 legislative staff members.



NCSL Standing Committees

NCSL has 15 Standing Committees composed of state legislators and legislative staff. Standing Committees meet three times each year and allow legislators and staff to benefit from the experiences of other states in shaping public policy, experimenting with new laws, and managing the legislative institutions.

NCSL policy positions and lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. are also guided by the committees. As a result of those policy decisions voted on by the Standing Committees, NCSL is nationally recognized as a formidable lobbying force in state-federal relations.



NCSL Standing Committees

There are fifteen standing committees:

Agriculture and Rural Development

Budgets and Revenue

Communications, Technology and Interstate Commerce

Economic Development, Trade and Cultural Affairs

Education

Energy and Electric Utilities

Environment and Natural Resources

Financial Services

Health

Human Services and Welfare

Labor and Workforce Development

Law and Criminal Justice

Legislative Effectiveness and State Government

Redistricting and Elections; and Transportation



Policy Process

• NCSL policy positions are adopted, by topic, by members of the relevant standing committee.

• The Standing Committees consider both federal and state issues and develop lobbying positions for NCSL. Legislative staff participate in the committees; however, only legislators vote on the policy resolutions.



NCSL Spring/Fall Forum Meetings

- Spring Forum 2006
 - April 4-6, 2006, Washington, DC
 - Environmental Management and HLW Briefings
 - EM Budget Update
 - GNEP Update
 - OCRWM Transportation Update
 - S 2099 Reid Bill
 - S 2589 Nuclear Fuel Management and Disposal Act
 - NCSL will take no position on this bill until the policy committees and High-Level Waste Working Group review it.



NCSL Environmental Management Project

- The DOE Office of Environmental Management was created to focus on the cleanup of former nuclear weapons production and research facilities and the waste generated and stored at these sites.
- The NCSL EM Project focuses on the cleanup of these DOE sites including the Nevada Test Site, the Savannah River Site, Rocky Flats, Hanford, Oak Ridge, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Idaho National Laboratory, and several other national labs.



NCSL Environmental Management Project

- Legislators and state officials have an important role in these activities including exercising oversight of nuclear waste cleanup by participating in development of interagency agreements and becoming active in a variety of working groups and advisory bodies.
- The legislative roundtables are moderated by the chair of NCSL's HLWWG in conjunction with the appropriate legislative leader from the host state.



NCSL High Level Waste Working Group

- Over the years, as use of nuclear energy became more common, the spent fuel generated during energy production was stored at the reactor sites. In the 1950s the National Academy of Sciences recommended deep geologic disposal of the long-lived, highly radioactive wastes from nuclear reactors.
- With the official presidential designation of Yucca Mountain and subsequent approval by Congress in 2002, states have had to acknowledge and address the implications of the siting of the repository. Of all the issues associated with housing the nation's high-level waste and spent nuclear fuel at one facility, the one of greatest interest to the states is the transportation of the waste to its final resting place.



NCSL High Level Waste Working Group

- Although the federal government is the central regulator of nuclear waste transportation, state governments have an extremely important role to play.
- NCSL offers various types of assistance including the High Level Waste Working Group. The goal of the High-Level Waste Working Group to gather information about the interim storage, transportation and disposal of spent fuel from commercial nuclear power plants, as well as other high-level radioactive wastes, and to share that information with fellow legislators to aid them in making informed public policy decisions relating to these issues.



NCSL High Level Waste Working Group

• The working group is governed by an executive committee and comprised of 61 members who are appointed by leadership in their states.

• In addition, the 8-member Nevada Committee on High-Level Radioactive Waste also participate.



Role for the Nevada HLW Committee

There are several ways the Nevada HLRW Committee may wish to participate in NCSL's work in these areas including:

- participation in the NCSL HLWWG
- participation in the EM roundtable meetings
- technical assistance
- site visits



Meetings of Interest

- Western Interstate Energy Board
 - Energy arm of the Western Governors Association
 - October 2005, Las Vegas, NV
 - Tour of Yucca Mountain
 - May 2006, Salt Lake City, UT
 - Tour of Envirocare (Energy Solutions)
- Southern States Energy Board
 - November 2005, Hilton Head, SC
 - Transportation safety
 - April 2006, Gaithersburg, MD
 - TRAGIS Training/NRC HQ Tour



- Council of State Governments
 - Midwest
 - November 2005, Lansing, MI
 - Route Identification Project
 - June 2006, Cedar Rapids, IA
 - Eastern Regional Conference
 - December 2005, Gaithersburg, MD
 - NRC Headquarters Tour
 - May 2006, Atlantic City, NJ
 - PFS Update
 - Tour of Oyster Creek



- Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Mtgs.
 - February 2006, Las Vegas
 - Radionuclide transport/seepage issues
 - May 2006, Washington, DC
 - TAD Canister System
- National Academy of Sciences Board on Radioactive Waste Management
 - November 2005, Washington, DC
 - Radiation Risk Assessment



- Transportation External Coordination Working Group
 - October 2005, Phoenix, AZ
 - March 2006, Washington, DC
- U.S. Transport Council
 - Fall 2005, Washington, DC
- NARUC Yucca Mountain Task Force
 - Winter 2005, Washington, DC



- Waste Management Symposium
 - March 2006, Tucson, AZ
- Transportation Best Practices Meeting
 - August 2006, Boulder, Co
- NCSL Annual Meeting
 - August 14-19, 2006, Nashville, TN
 - Seminar on Energy Policy



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