ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16—ASSEMBLYMEN
COBB; CARPENTER, GOICHEA, GRADY, GUSTAVSON,
HAMBRICK, MCArTHUR, MUNFORD, SETTELMEYER,
STEWART AND WOODBURY

MARCH 13, 2009

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR WASHINGTON

Referred to Committee on Elections, Procedures, Ethics,
and Constitutional Amendments

SUMMARY—Directs that certain actions be taken with respect to
the Yucca Mountain Project. (BDR R-1050)

EXPLANATION—Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the
Agency for Nuclear Projects and the Commission on
Nuclear Projects to take certain action concerning the
licensing and approval for the Yucca Mountain Project
and encouraging the United States Department of Energy
to place only certain nuclear waste in the underground
repository at Yucca Mountain.

WHEREAS, In 1975, the State of Nevada passed Assembly Joint
Resolution No. 15 strongly urging “the Energy Research and
Development Administration to choose the Nevada Test Site for the
storage and processing of nuclear material”; and

WHEREAS, The Yucca Mountain Project as currently planned
would employ approximately 2,560 skilled trade workers during
construction, approximately 2,690 skilled trade workers and
professionals during operation and approximately another 8,000
construction workers to build an urban Nevada bypass railroad for
shipments to the facility, at a median salary of approximately
$70,000; and

WHEREAS, The resurgence of nuclear energy in the world
energy market has led to a reassessment of programs for the long-
term management of used fuel and the support of the nuclear
industry for fuel reprocessing and new fuel fabrication to use the remaining energy in used fuel and reduce the volume, heat and radiotoxicity of by-products which require disposal; and

WHEREAS, Many thousands of jobs would be created if a National Center for Advanced Reactor Reprocessing and Advanced Fuels were established in Nevada to meet the need for research and development to construct and implement a system for advanced reprocessing and new fuel fabrication to produce low-cost energy for Nevada residents; and

WHEREAS, The total cost of the Yucca Mountain Project, as currently conceived over its life cycle, is $96.2 billion and most of that money would be spent in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Section 116 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. § 10136, requires the Secretary of Energy to grant to the State of Nevada or an affected unit of local government the amount the State of Nevada or the affected unit of local government would receive if authorized to tax the site, and currently Nye County receives approximately $11.5 million in such payments; and

WHEREAS, There have been over 3,000 shipments of used fuel in the United States without a release of the content of the containers; and

WHEREAS, The Nuclear Waste Policy Act authorizes Nevada to have on-site inspection and monitoring of the program, and Nevada could contractually require that it be allowed to shut down the facility in the event of safety or environmental violations; and

WHEREAS, The money received from the Federal Government could be used to provide needed services to the residents of Nevada; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Legislature of the State of Nevada hereby directs the Agency for Nuclear Projects and the Commission on Nuclear Projects to take a neutral, science-based safety approach to the issue of used fuel and the management and reprocessing of high-level radioactive waste in this State; and

RESOLVED, That the Executive Director of the Agency for Nuclear Projects is hereby directed to immediately seek payments of money from the Federal Government to the extent authorized under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act for the Yucca Mountain Project; and

RESOLVED, That the Executive Director is hereby directed to participate aggressively in the licensing process of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the Yucca Mountain Project to protect the public health and safety and the environment of this State; and

be it further
RESOLVED, That to the extent authorized under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, the Agency for Nuclear Projects is hereby directed to request an offer from the Federal Government which includes a sufficient amount of money to mitigate reasonably any expected impacts of the Yucca Mountain Project and to provide the resources necessary to provide the residents of Nevada with substantial annual payments, services, programs and greatly expanded infrastructure needed to accommodate the Yucca Mountain Project without requiring an increase in taxes or fees owed by the residents of Nevada or businesses or entities based in Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That if the site is licensed, the United States Department of Energy is strongly encouraged to place only high-level waste and the by-products of reprocessing in the underground repository at Yucca Mountain and that used fuel will be stored in an interim storage facility until such time as facilities for advanced reprocessing can be constructed and the material may be reprocessed for use in the production of nuclear energy for the production of power for the residents of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Executive Director of the Agency for Nuclear Projects and the Chairman of the Commission on Nuclear Projects.