

NORTHWATCH

June 3, 2014

Senator Tom Casperson, Chair
Committee Members
Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes Committee
Michigan State Senate
PO Box 3003, Lansing, MI 48909-7536v

Dear Senator Casperson and Committee Members:

RE. SENATE BILL No. 948

We write to express our support and appreciation for Senate Bill No. 948, *An act to regulate the Importing, Depositing, and Storing, of Radioactive Waste; to Establish a Great Lakes Protection Radioactive Waste Advisory Board; and to Repeal Acts and Parts of Acts*" as introduced on May 21, 2014, by Senators Pavlov, Proos, Brandenburg, Green, Schuitmaker, Hopgood, Jones, Hansen, Marleau, Kowall And Hildenbrand and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes.

Northwatch is a regional coalition of environmental and social development organizations in northeastern Ontario. Our region is bounded on the south by the North Shore of Lake Huron, and on the west by the eastern coastline of Lake Superior. We have worked for over 25 years on issues related to nuclear waste and its long term management, and have been very active participants in the federal review still under way of Ontario Power Generation's proposal to bury radioactive wastes on the shore of Lake Huron.

During the 25 days of hearing in September and October 2013, the huge uncertainties and many unknowns related to this burial scheme became increasingly obvious. Ontario Power Generation's application was not only incomplete, but many key aspects were unsupported by scientific evidence. Ontario Power Generation has now acknowledged that they intend to place double the volume of wastes in the Deep Geologic Repository than had been stated in all documents filed prior to the hearing. The addition of refurbishment wastes means that not only the volume doubles, but the level of radioactivity multiplies, given the highly radioactive nature of the refurbishment wastes. In Canada, so-called "intermediate" level wastes – including those proposed for burial beside Lake Huron – are not classified as "high level" because that term is reserved for nuclear fuel waste, but many of the wastes in the "intermediate" category are of equivalent radioactivity to the "high level" wastes.

I am attaching our general submission filed with the Joint Review Panel last year, for your information. Should the Committee continue its consideration of this Bill on another date, I would be pleased to attend and make a brief presentation, outlining our assessment of the OPG proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brennain Lloyd
Northwatch