

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 92

Senators Johnson, MacDonald, Chang, Ananich, LaSata, Runestad, Lucido, Daley, Bayer, Moss and Bizon offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to express concern about Canada's proposed
2 placement of an underground nuclear waste repository in the Great
3 Lakes basin.

4 Whereas, Ontario Power Generation is proposing to construct an
5 underground repository for Canada's spent nuclear fuel supply—the
6 most dangerous nuclear waste—at the Bruce Nuclear Generation
7 Facility. This site, less than a half mile inland from the shore of
8 Lake Huron and about 440 yards below the lake level, is
9 approximately 120 miles upstream from the main drinking water
10 intakes for Southeast Michigan; and

11 Whereas, Lake Huron and the other Great Lakes are critically
12 important resources to both the United States and Canada. The Great

1 Lakes contain 95 percent of North America's surface fresh water,
2 providing drinking water to tens of millions of people. Pristine
3 water is important not only for public health but also for
4 agriculture, commercial and sport fishing, boating, recreation, and
5 tourism in Michigan and throughout the region. These industries are
6 all important components of the Great Lakes economy; and

7 Whereas, The threat of radioactive water could be devastating
8 to Michigan's tourism and agriculture industries. Roughly 124
9 million travelers come to Michigan each year, and many potential
10 tourists may be discouraged from a trip to the Great Lakes,
11 creating severe economic hardship for the state's vast tourist
12 destinations. Michigan's agriculture industry, which adds more than
13 \$100 billion to the state economy annually, is dependent on Great
14 Lakes water for irrigation. Polluted water used for irrigation
15 could contaminate agricultural crops and livestock in the state and
16 cause serious harm to the well-being of the general public; and

17 Whereas, Placing a permanent nuclear waste burial facility so
18 close to the Great Lakes is ill-advised. The potential damage to
19 the Great Lakes from any leak or breach of radioactivity far
20 outweighs any benefits that could be derived from burying
21 radioactive waste at this site. The ecology of the Lakes, which is
22 valuable beyond measure to the health and economic well-being of
23 this entire region, should not be placed at risk by storing
24 radioactive waste so close to the shoreline; now, therefore, be it

25 Resolved by the Senate, That we express concern about Canada's
26 proposed placement of an underground nuclear waste repository in
27 the Great Lakes basin; and be it further

28 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
29 President of the United States, the President of the United States

1 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
2 the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the Chairman
3 of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Canadian
4 Prime Minister, the Premier of Ontario, and the President of the
5 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.