

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.19

Senator Zorn offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to urge the U.S. Department of Energy
2 and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fulfill their
3 obligation to establish a permanent repository for high-level
4 nuclear waste.

5 Whereas, Over the past four decades, nuclear power has been a
6 significant source for the nation's electricity production.
7 According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, nuclear
8 power provided about 20 percent of the electricity produced in the
9 United States in 2019, and Michigan's three nuclear power plants
10 provided 26 percent of the electricity generated in Michigan; and

11 Whereas, Since the earliest days of nuclear power, the great
12 dilemma associated with this technology is how to deal with used
13 nuclear fuel. Currently, more than 90,000 metric tons of spent
14 nuclear fuel are stored in pools or casks at temporary sites around

1 the country, including in Michigan. This high-level radioactive
2 waste demands exceptional care in all facets of its storage and
3 disposal, including transportation; and

4 Whereas, More than 30 years ago, Congress enacted the Nuclear
5 Waste Policy Act of 1982 to address this issue. The act requires
6 the federal government, through the Department of Energy, to build
7 a repository for the permanent storage of high-level radioactive
8 waste from nuclear power plants and begin accepting waste by
9 January 31, 1998; and

10 Whereas, It is now 2020, and the nation still remains without
11 a permanent repository despite billions of dollars collected from
12 electric ratepayers for the project. Spent nuclear fuel continues
13 to pile up at temporary sites around the country, and the ongoing
14 problem of permanent disposal is a drag on the potential of the
15 nuclear power industry to meet our nation's energy needs. There is
16 only so long that our nation can continue to safely store this
17 waste at temporary sites; now, therefore, be it

18 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
19 concurring), That we urge the U.S. Department of Energy and the
20 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fulfill their obligation, as
21 provided by law, to establish a permanent repository for high-level
22 nuclear waste; and be it further

23 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
24 Secretary of Energy, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the
25 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
26 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan
27 congressional delegation.