

## Enrolled

# Senate Joint Memorial 1

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Natural Resources and Alternative Energy)

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the United States Department of Energy's Hanford Nuclear Reservation is the most contaminated site in North America; and

Whereas radioactive and chemical wastes stored at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation pose a significant threat to the Columbia River and to the health and welfare of Oregonians; and

Whereas many of the storage facilities at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation are beyond their designed lifespan and have failed, or are at imminent risk of failing; and

Whereas contaminated ground water, which ultimately flows into the Columbia River, presents a threat to human health and to sensitive species in that river, including endangered salmon; and

Whereas the environmental cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation is a top priority for Oregonians; and

Whereas despite considerable progress with some cleanup projects at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, significant work remains, such as stabilizing tons of plutonium-bearing materials and moving spent nuclear fuel from leak-prone basins near the Columbia River to a more appropriate storage facility; and

Whereas the United States Department of Energy is constructing a complex of treatment facilities to vitrify the high-level radioactive waste stored at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, a process that puts the waste into a stable form suitable for long-term storage or disposal; and

Whereas significant delays with the vitrification program may result in treatment facilities not being available until 2019; and

Whereas the risk of further tank leaks will increase because of these delays; and

Whereas the delays will also result in difficulties removing waste from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation's oldest tanks; and

Whereas delays in moving Hanford's plutonium to off-site, consolidated storage have caused the expenditure of tens of millions of dollars of cleanup funds to be used to safeguard the plutonium; and

Whereas the State of Oregon is seeking standing under the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement to affect decisions by the United States Department of Energy, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Washington regarding waste management at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation; now, therefore,

### **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

(1) The Congress of the United States is respectfully urged to:

(a) Fully fund the cleanup effort at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, including the construction of vitrification facilities and other existing cleanup and waste management efforts, to ensure the health and safety of Oregonians and the health of the Columbia River;

(b) Not artificially limit annual funding provided for construction of the vitrification facilities and instead to seek ways to complete the vitrification facilities before 2019; and

(c) Direct the United States Department of Energy to do the following:

(A) Examine methods to vitrify some of the tank waste stored at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation prior to the completion of the entire vitrification complex;

(B) Demonstrate how continued, indefinite storage of waste in tanks at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation will not harm the public and the environment;

(C) Expedite efforts to protect the Columbia River, including cleanup of contaminated ground water that may threaten the Columbia River, the species that rely on the river and the people who live downstream from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation;

(D) Act expeditiously on plans to remove plutonium from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation to an off-site location;

(E) Work closely with Pacific Northwest officials and residents to ensure success of cleanup and waste management efforts; and

(F) Provide the State of Oregon with a decision-making role in matters affecting the handling, storing and cleanup of radioactive and chemical wastes at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, including a role in the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement or any successor thereto.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation and the Washington Congressional Delegation, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the United States Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

---

Adopted by Senate February 19, 2007

---

Secretary of Senate

---

President of Senate

Adopted by House March 21, 2007

---

Speaker of House