

## Enrolled

# House Joint Memorial 28

Sponsored by Representatives BAILEY, BERGER; Representatives BARKER, BARNHART, BENTZ, BEYER, BOONE, BREWER, BUCKLEY, CAMERON, CANNON, CLEM, CONGER, COWAN, DEMBROW, DOHERTY, ESQUIVEL, FREDERICK, FREEMAN, GARRARD, GARRETT, GELSER, GILLIAM, GREENLICK, HARKER, HOLVEY, HOYLE, HUFFMAN, HUNT, JENSON, KENNEMER, KOMP, KOTEK, MATTHEWS, MCLANE, NATHANSON, NOLAN, READ, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLER, SHEEHAN, J SMITH, SPRENGER, THOMPSON, TOMEI, WAND, WEIDNER, WINGARD, WITT, Senators BURDICK, DEVLIN, DINGFELDER, HASS, JOHNSON, MONROE, PROZANSKI, ROSENBAUM, SHIELDS, VERGER

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

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

Whereas the federal government is currently considering the Hanford Nuclear Reservation for disposal of highly radioactive waste from across the nation; and

Whereas this is the sixth time since environmental cleanup began at Hanford that the federal government has proposed bringing radioactive waste, including highly radioactive waste, to Hanford for storage, disposal or both; and

Whereas Hanford is the site of the largest environmental cleanup program in the world, due to more than 40 years of generating waste during the production of plutonium for our nation's nuclear weapons program; and

Whereas millions of cubic feet of solid waste were disposed of improperly and placed in trenches and burial sites at Hanford and, because of this operation, Hanford is the most contaminated nuclear site in the United States today; and

Whereas more than 50 million gallons of radioactive waste are currently stored in underground tanks at Hanford, and approximately 440 billion gallons of less contaminated liquids have been discharged into the soil, creating an area of groundwater contamination of more than 80 square miles beneath the site; and

Whereas throughout the history of the site, extensive amounts of radioactive elements are known to have been released into the environment, some decaying over time but others remaining present due to their abundance and persistence, including strontium-90, plutonium, cesium-137 and technetium; and

Whereas the operations of the Hanford site have resulted in more than 43 million cubic yards of radioactive waste and more than 130 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris, representing two-thirds of the nation's high-level radioactive waste by volume; and

Whereas analysis by the United States Department of Energy shows persistent contamination in Hanford groundwater for thousands of years, even before accounting for additional waste disposal from off-site; and

Whereas existing cleanup efforts have been valuable, and there is still significant work needed in order to successfully rehabilitate the area; and

Whereas proposals to bring in additional waste to Hanford for disposal distract from and are contrary to the cleanup effort; and

Whereas Hanford is located along the Columbia River, just upriver from Oregon, where more than one million people live downriver in Portland, Hood River, The Dalles and other Oregon communities; and

Whereas besides river contamination, those who live along the interstate system would be adversely affected by Hanford's selection as a site for permanent storage of radioactive waste, due to vast increases in truckloads of radioactive waste traveling along interstate routes, passing through our cities; and

Whereas in the past, statements describing the scope of disaster involved following a foreseeable accident associated with a site for storage of radioactive waste were often considered extreme, after the events at Fukushima, Japan, all recognize that such dire outcomes may not be so easily dismissed; now, therefore,

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

(1) The United States Department of Energy is urged to remove the Hanford Nuclear Reservation from the list of candidate sites for national permanent disposal of radioactive waste, both now and in the future.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Secretary of Energy and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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Adopted by House June 16, 2011

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Ramona Kenady Line, Chief Clerk of House

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Bruce Hanna, Speaker of House

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Arnie Roblan, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate June 22, 2011

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate