

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Joint Memorial 28**

Ordered by the House June 14  
Including House Amendments dated June 14

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

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Urges United States Department of Energy to remove Hanford Nuclear Reservation from list of candidate sites for national permanent [*storage*] **disposal** of radioactive waste.

**JOINT MEMORIAL**

1  
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United  
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Whereas the operations of the Hanford site have resulted in more than 43 million cubic yards

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 of radioactive waste and more than 130 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris, repre-  
2 senting two-thirds of the nation's high-level radioactive waste by volume; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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