

## HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 28

By COMMITTEE ON RULES

June 14

1 On page 1 of the printed joint memorial, delete lines 6 through 28.

2 On page 2, delete lines 1 through 18 and insert:

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

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

8 “Whereas Hanford is the site of the largest environmental cleanup program in the world, due  
9 to more than 40 years of generating waste during the production of plutonium for our nation’s nu-  
10 clear weapons program; and

11 “Whereas millions of cubic feet of solid waste were disposed of improperly and placed in  
12 trenches and burial sites at Hanford and, because of this operation, Hanford is the most contam-  
13 inated nuclear site in the United States today; and

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

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

22 “Whereas the operations of the Hanford site have resulted in more than 43 million cubic yards  
23 of radioactive waste and more than 130 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris, repre-  
24 senting two-thirds of the nation’s high-level radioactive waste by volume; and

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

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

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

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

35 “Whereas besides river contamination, those who live along the interstate system would be ad-

1 versely affected by Hanford's selection as a site for permanent storage of radioactive waste, due to  
2 vast increases in truckloads of radioactive waste traveling along interstate routes, passing through  
3 our cities; and

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

8 Delete lines 20 and 21 and insert:

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