

**61st Annual Meeting
of the Midwestern Legislative Conference
of
The Council of State Governments**

The Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers
Chicago, Illinois

August 20 - 23, 2006

Resolution on Permanent Disposal of Nuclear Waste

- WHEREAS,** in 1982 the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) established policy that the federal government is responsible for safe, permanent disposal of all high-level radioactive waste, including spent nuclear fuel from commercial power reactors; and
- WHEREAS,** the scientific community generally agrees that the best long-term solution to isolating nuclear waste from the environment is permanent disposal in a geological repository; and
- WHEREAS,** since 1982, the growing demand for electricity has increased interest in the use of nuclear energy, and thereby increased attention to the issue of disposal of nuclear waste; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal effort to construct and operate a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada is already 8 years behind schedule, with the most recent estimated completion date being 2017; and
- WHEREAS,** the Midwestern consumers of nuclear-generated electricity have contributed over \$3 billion into the Nuclear Waste Fund that provides money for the development of a national repository; and
- WHEREAS,** a proposed amendment to add Section 313 to the federal FY 07 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill (H.R. 5427) would divert money from the Nuclear Waste Fund to pay for the development of “consolidation and preparation facilities” in as many as 31 states that have nuclear power plants; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the Nuclear Waste Fund is intended for permanent waste disposal and should not be used for interim storage so long as the present inequitable appropriations process exists in which dollars spent on interim storage come at the expense of the already long-delayed development of the permanent repository; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Midwestern Legislative Conference urges that the development of a permanent disposal site for nuclear waste be swiftly expedited; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Midwestern Legislative Conference urges the U.S. Senate to reject the language of Section 313 of H.R. 5427; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the U.S. Department of Energy, Midwestern Members of Congress, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and the President of the United States.