



1997 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

February 19, 1997 - Introduced by Senators COWLES, RISSER, SCHULTZ, HUELSMAN, FARROW and RUDE, cosponsored by Representatives DUFF, F. LASEE, JENSEN, BOCK, KEDZIE, MUSSER, HUTCHISON, HARSDORF, NOTESTEIN, DOBYNS, RYBA, NASS, VANDER LOOP, LADWIG, SERATTI, GUNDERSON, LAZICH, HANDRICK, OTTE and SYKORA. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations.

1 **Relating to:** memorializing Congress to ensure that the federal government will
2 accept civilian spent nuclear fuel on January 31, 1998.

3 Whereas, under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 [42 USC 10222 (a) (5)],
4 the federal government entered into contracts with electric utilities, including
5 electric utilities in Wisconsin, that provide that following the commencement of
6 operation of a permanent federal repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive
7 waste and spent nuclear fuel, the U.S. secretary of energy shall take title to spent
8 nuclear fuel from civilian nuclear power reactors as expeditiously as practicable
9 upon request of the fuel's owner and, beginning no later than January 31, 1998, will
10 dispose of the spent nuclear fuel in return for payment of fees to the nuclear waste
11 fund; and

12 Whereas, electric utilities owning nuclear power plants in Wisconsin have
13 collected over \$240,000,000 to date from Wisconsin ratepayers for the required
14 payment of fees to the nuclear waste fund; and

1 Whereas, the federal department of energy has repeatedly delayed the
2 projected opening date for the federal nuclear waste repository and is now projecting
3 that the date will be after the year 2010 under the most optimistic assumptions; and

4 Whereas, delays in the development of the federal repository have necessitated
5 that one Wisconsin utility spend over \$10,000,000 for additional, temporary on-site
6 storage of its spent nuclear fuel and the utilities owning the other nuclear power
7 plant in Wisconsin are facing similar prospects, and these costs would not be
8 necessary if the federal government had upheld its commitment to develop, in a
9 timely manner, a single government-owned and government-operated permanent
10 nuclear waste repository; now, therefore, be it

11 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
12 legislature of the state of Wisconsin urge President Clinton and the U.S. Congress
13 to uphold the federal government's commitment to accept and take title to civilian
14 spent nuclear fuel on January 31, 1998, through enactment of appropriate funding
15 resolutions and legislation that authorize and fund the development of a federal
16 centralized, temporary storage facility for spent nuclear fuel that will accept spent
17 nuclear fuel between January 31, 1998, and the beginning of commercial operation
18 of the permanent federal nuclear waste repository; to use funds in the nuclear waste
19 fund to provide adequate funding for the expedient development of the permanent
20 federal nuclear waste repository; and to not increase the fee for the nuclear waste
21 fund; and, be it further

22 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
23 resolution to the President of the United States, to the president of the U.S. senate,

1 to the speaker of the U.S. house of representatives and to each member of the U.S.
2 congressional delegation from this state.

3 (END)