

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
112TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

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HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1752, "JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO RONALD W. REAGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR HIS DECISION REGARDING NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL."

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Amend the Joint Resolution by striking out all of the title and inserting in its place the following:

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'JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO RONALD W. REAGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR THE DECISION OF HIS SECRETARY OF ENERGY, JOHN S. HERRINGTON, REGARDING NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL'

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Further amend the Joint Resolution by striking out everything after the title and inserting in its place the following:

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'WHEREAS, the high-level radioactive waste program was first authorized to build a facility in Kansas salt beds in 1971, and whereas, technical developments and assessments spanning every administration since then have led to an expansion of the program for geological disposal to include sites in formations other than salt; and

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WHEREAS, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, signed by President Reagan January 7, 1983, contemplated the construction of 2 high-level waste repositories, and required the investigation of sites in different geological media and the exploration of the advantages of regional distribution of sites; and

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WHEREAS, that Act and the resulting investigations led to the January 16, 1986 proposal by the United States Department of Energy of the Reagan Administration to conduct area studies for a high-level waste site in Maine and in 6 other eastern and central states; and

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1 WHEREAS, after several years of effort in finding
2 a 2nd site, the United States Secretary of Energy has
3 finally decided to postpone indefinitely plans for
4 any site-specific work related to a 2nd repository;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, that decision means that the areas pro-
7 posed for preliminary field work in Maine and several
8 other eastern and north central states are no longer
9 under active consideration; and

10 WHEREAS, this indefinite postponement was based
11 on valid economic and programmatic considerations,
12 including the findings that the 70,000 metric ton ca-
13 pacity authorized for the first repository will be
14 adequate for the foreseeable future and that spending
15 hundreds of millions of dollars unnecessarily on ex-
16 ploration for a 2nd site would be unsound fiscal man-
17 agement; and

18 WHEREAS, this postponement is responsive to con-
19 cerns raised by the Maine Congressional Delegation;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the citizens and agencies of the State
22 of Maine have with one voice expressed their total
23 opposition to the siting of a high-level waste dis-
24 posal facility in Maine; and

25 WHEREAS, the citizens and agencies of the State,
26 including the Legislature, the Advisory Commission on
27 Radioactive Waste and the Governor's Task Force on
28 High-Level Nuclear Waste have presented many strong
29 environmental, geologic, sociological and economic
30 reasons why the proposed sites in Maine would be to-
31 tally unsuitable; and

32 WHEREAS, the Maine Congressional Delegation spoke
33 with a strong and unified voice in opposition to sit-
34 ing any high-level waste facility in Maine; and

35 WHEREAS, even though the postponement was based

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1 on economic, not environmental grounds, the immediate
2 threat to our State has been withdrawn; now, there-
3 fore, be it

4 RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the 112th Leg-
5 islature, hereby express our appreciation to the Hon-
6 orable Ronald W. Reagan, President of the United
7 States, and to John S. Herrington, United States Sec-
8 retary of Energy for the decision of May 28th to
9 postpone indefinitely any site-specific work on the
10 2nd repository and to cease active consideration of
11 any areas in the east for a high-level radioactive
12 waste repository; and be it further

13 RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the 112th Leg-
14 islature, hereby request that the Honorable Ronald W.
15 Reagan, President of the United States, support
16 amendments removing all reference to a 2nd repository
17 from the Nuclear Waste Policy Act; and be it further

18 RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution, duly
19 authenticated by the Secretary of State, transmitted
20 to the President of the United States, the Secretary
21 of the United States Department of Energy, the Maine
22 Congressional Delegation and Governor Joseph E.
23 Brennan in our sincerest appreciation.'

24 STATEMENT OF FACT

25 The purpose of this amendment is to replace the
26 title and the body of the Joint Resolution.