

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 88

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the President and the Secretary of State should ensure that the Government of Canada does not permanently store nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 15, 2017

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the President and the Secretary of State should ensure that the Government of Canada does not permanently store nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin.

Whereas the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin are precious public natural resources, shared by the Great Lakes States and the Canadian Provinces;

Whereas the United States and Canada have, since 1909, worked to maintain and improve the water quality of the Great Lakes through water quality agreements;

Whereas over 40,000,000 people in both Canada and the United States depend on the fresh water from the Great Lakes for drinking water;

Whereas Ontario Power Generation is proposing to build a permanent geological repository for nuclear waste less than one mile from Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada;

Whereas nuclear waste is highly toxic and can take tens of thousands of years to decompose to safe levels;

Whereas a spill of nuclear waste into the Great Lakes could have lasting and severely adverse environmental, health, and economic impacts on the Great Lakes and the people that depend on them for their livelihood;

Whereas 187 local, county, State, and tribal governments have passed resolutions in opposition to Ontario Power Generation's proposed nuclear waste repository;

Whereas tribes and First Nations' citizens have a strong spiritual and cultural connection to the Great Lakes, and its protection is fundamental to treaty rights;

Whereas Ontario Power Generation has promised not to move forward with their current proposal without the support of the First Nations that would be impacted; and

Whereas, during the 1980s, when the Department of Energy, in accordance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, was studying potential sites for a permanent nuclear waste repository in the United States, the Government of Canada expressed concern with locating a permanent nuclear waste repository within shared water basins of the two countries: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—
- 2 (1) the Government of Canada should not allow
- 3 a permanent nuclear waste repository to be built
- 4 within the Great Lakes Basin;

1 (2) the President and the Secretary of State
2 should take appropriate action to work with the Gov-
3 ernment of Canada to prevent a permanent nuclear
4 waste repository from being built within the Great
5 Lakes Basin; and

6 (3) the President and the Secretary of State
7 should work together with their Government of Can-
8 ada counterparts on a safe and responsible solution
9 for the long-term storage of nuclear waste.

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