

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL
Model Legislation

Resolution Recognizing the Large and Growing Need for Commercial Nuclear Energy and Urging the President and Congress to Make Steady Progress toward a Permanent Geologic Repository for Used Commercial Nuclear Fuel and Such Nearer-Term Priorities as Interim Fuel Storage and Research into Fuel Reprocessing and Closing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle

Summary

ALEC's model Resolution Recognizes the Growing Need for Nuclear Energy and Urges the President and Congress to Make Steady Progress toward a Permanent Geologic Repository for Used Commercial Fuel and Such Nearer-Term Priorities as Interim Used Fuel Storage and Research into Fuel Reprocessing and Closing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle.

Model Resolution

WHEREAS, America's 104 commercial nuclear plants generate 20 percent of the Nation's electricity with remarkably high levels of efficiency and reliability while producing zero emissions of pollutants or greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, projected U.S. electricity demand will increase by 40 percent by the year 2030, requiring the nuclear industry to bring online 50 gigawatts of additional generation just to maintain nuclear energy's present 20 percent share of the electricity generation fuel mix; and

WHEREAS, more than a dozen nuclear utilities and consortia actively are exploring plans to pursue construction and operating licenses for more than 30 new commercial nuclear reactors in the next several years; and

WHEREAS, many communities and regions have expressed strong support for hosting a new nuclear reactor for the clean, safe and affordable electricity, energy security, employment opportunities and other economic benefits it could provide; and

WHEREAS, the Congress enacted the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and directed the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish a program for the safe, permanent disposal of the Nation's used commercial nuclear fuel and defense-related high-level radioactive waste in a geologic repository; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has embraced international scientific consensus and approved the recommendation of the U.S. DOE Secretary of the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada as fully suitable for use as a national used fuel repository and the U.S. Congress concurred by passing the Yucca Mountain Development Act of 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act created the Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF) to pay for the development of a waste management program financed through fees collected by nuclear utilities from their ratepayers; and

