

R-85-2000

RESOLUTION**RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE LAS VEGAS A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE**

WHEREAS, Congress has designated Yucca Mountain, Nevada, the only site to be studied for a high-level nuclear waste repository; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Yucca Mountain site should be disqualified from consideration due to scientifically proven geologic and technical factors; and

WHEREAS, billions of taxpayer dollars have already been spent on the Yucca Mountain project; and

WHEREAS, the governments of the State of Nevada and the City of Las Vegas are opposed to Yucca Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada has already made countless sacrifices for the nation's nuclear programs; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Test Site is currently used by the Department of Energy as a site for the final disposal of low-level radioactive waste from the cleanup of the Department of Energy's weapons complex; and

WHEREAS, high-level nuclear waste, as well as some low-level nuclear waste, is extremely dangerous, containing long-lived radioactive isotopes; and

WHEREAS, this high-level nuclear waste would consist of irradiated nuclear fuel rods and other radioactive waste; and

WHEREAS, legislation is introduced each year and is currently being debated which, if adopted by Congress and signed into law by the President of the United States, will allow for the transport of radioactive waste through the City of Las Vegas and other towns in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would create an above-ground interim storage facility for high-level nuclear waste at the Nevada Test Site; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would begin the largest nuclear waste transportation campaign in history, possibly endangering residents in 43 states and thousands of towns and cities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy predicts that there will be nuclear waste accidents occurring during this transportation campaign; and

WHEREAS, lives, health, and properties of Las Vegas residents living and working along transportation routes will be unnecessarily endangered by accidents or incidents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Las Vegas will have limited funding for training of emergency response personnel and for purchase of necessary equipment to cope with a radiological emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Las Vegas does not have the independent resources required to effectively cope with a radiological disaster that could occur as a result of radioactive waste transported through Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, tourism has long been the life-blood of Nevada's economy with over half of the state's economic activity resulting directly or indirectly from tourism related expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of nuclear waste through Las Vegas would diminish the safe and attractive image the city now conveys, poses a possible health risk to potential visitors, and would damage the city and state's economy; and

WHEREAS, since the production of both high- and low-level waste continues, transportation to either an interim or permanent repository does nothing to solve the nuclear waste problem in our country; and

WHEREAS, the City of Las Vegas supports basing nuclear waste disposal decisions that will impact future generations on sound science, long-term safety considerations, and a thorough evaluation of all possible options; and

WHEREAS, at or near reactor above-ground monitored retrievable dry cask storage technology can be used to safely and economically store high-level radioactive wastes on site for at least 100 years; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Las Vegas as follows:

SECTION 1: That the Mayor and City Council of Las Vegas oppose all legislation that would require or allow transportation of radioactive waste near or through the City of Las Vegas;

SECTION 2: That the Mayor and City Council of Las Vegas support at reactor, on-site storage of spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste and a shift in funding to find a scientifically defensible and publicly acceptable method of disposal;

SECTION 3: That the Mayor and City Council of Las Vegas support the research and use of alternative renewable energy sources;

SECTION 4: That radioactive waste and nuclear waste, as referred to in this Resolution, is principally intended to include fuel materials utilized in nuclear power production. This Resolution does not relate to radioactive materials used, in the City of Las Vegas, for medical applications, industrial radiography and personal purposes such as time pieces or smoke detectors;

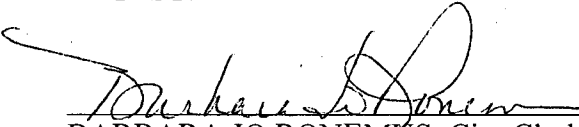
SECTION 5: That in opposition to legislation that would allow the transportation, storage or production of spent nuclear fuel, high-level nuclear waste, and low-level radioactive waste within the City of Las Vegas, the Mayor and City Council of Las Vegas designate the City of Las Vegas as a Nuclear Free Zone;

PASSED, ADOPTED, and APPROVED this 6th day of September 2000.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

By 
OSCAR B. GOODMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:


BARBARA JO RONEMUS, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Val Steed 8-28-00
Date