

## **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION – RELOCATION OF NUCLEAR WASTE**

- WHEREAS, High-level nuclear waste materials (HLW – spent nuclear fuel, liquid products of spent fuel reprocessing and solid waste derived from the liquid) are highly radioactive by-products of nuclear reactors, power plants and weapons; and
- WHEREAS, Yucca Mountain, Nevada has been selected to store the nation’s commercial, industrial and military HLW beginning in 2010; and
- WHEREAS, Transporting HLW to Yucca Mountain from 77 reactor and storage sites in 39 states, including Missouri, will require more than 105,000 shipments if trucks are the primary mode or 18,000 shipments, if trains are the dominant mode, with an additional 3,000 shipments by truck or barge, over the 38-year life of the relocation plan; and
- WHEREAS, These shipments will travel on the highways, railways and waterways of Missouri and 43 other states, passing through or near at least 109 cities with populations of 100,000 or more, including St. Louis and Kansas City, and passing through 703 counties in the 44 states, with their combined population of 123 million; and
- WHEREAS, Based on the accident rates for past shipments of HLW, at least 400 accidents can be reasonably anticipated to occur involving HLW during the 38-year shipping campaign; and
- WHEREAS, Certification of the casks used to ship HLW is provided by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission based only on computer simulations and scale model tests, with no requirements for actual physical testing of the casks; and,
- WHEREAS, A typical rail cask of high-level nuclear waste contains more than 200 times the long-lived radiation (cesium and strontium)of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima; and
- WHEREAS, An accident involving HLW in a highly populated area can be expected to cause hundreds of cancer fatalities within one year and thousands to tens of thousands of cancer fatalities over a course of 50 years, with countless cases of human genetic damage affecting reproduction and resulting in birth defects, stunted growth, microcephaly (small brain) or mental retardation; and
- WHEREAS, Shipments of HLW could be a target for terroristic attacks, with successful attacks creating the veritable “dirty bomb;” and
- WHEREAS, Transportation of HLW creates a potential and real danger for our children and the children of future generations; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that many alternatives to the relocation of nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain or other sites exist; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its Units and Councils, oppose the transportation of HLW across Missouri and the other states included in the proposed shipping routes to Yucca Mountain, Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its Units and Councils, encourage its two Senators and nine Congressional Representatives to do everything within their power to halt any federal action to relocate HLW to Yucca Mountain.