

By: Representative Wynne, Lipton,
Easley, and Jordan

H.C.R. 1004

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING THE CONSENSUS OF THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THERE IS NO SITE IN ARKANSAS SUITABLE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE, AND URGING THE CENTRAL INTERSTATE LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMPACT TO SELECT A SITE IN ANOTHER MEMBER STATE OR CONTRACT WITH ANOTHER COMPACT AUTHORITY FOR THE DISPOSAL OF LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE PRODUCED IN THIS COMPACT AREA.

WHEREAS, under the authority of Act 9 of 1983, Arkansas is a member of the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact, which consists of Louisiana, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Arkansas as member states; and

WHEREAS, such Compact was established to meet the requirements of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act (Public Law 96-573) enacted by the Congress of the United States, which mandated each state to provide for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste or to enter into a compact with other states for such purpose; and

WHEREAS, Phase I and Phase II studies have been made in behalf of the Compact Commission for the purpose of identifying "preferred siting areas" in the Central Interstate Compact area, for the identification of potential low-level radioactive waste disposal sites; and

WHEREAS, the Phase II Siting Study has determined that most areas of the State are not suitable for low-level radioactive waste disposal sites, but the report did identify six "preferred siting areas" in an area located in Southeast Arkansas, which includes:

- two small areas, one along the border of Cleveland and Jefferson Counties, and one in north-central Cleveland County north of Rison;
- three larger areas, one in eastern Cleveland County, north of the Pansy community, one northeast of New Edinburg, and one southeast of New Edinburg; and
- one area northeast of Fordyce in Dallas County; and

WHEREAS, it is the consensus of the Arkansas General Assembly that the

six "preferred siting areas" identified in Southeast Arkansas are not proper for the location of a low-level radioactive waste disposal site, due to the water table level, annual rainfall, water run-off, and other drainage and topographical conditions that render such areas unsafe for the long-range location of a site for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste; and

WHEREAS, in view of the unsuitability of any Arkansas site for the location of a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility, the Compact Commission should explore the feasibility of locating one or more disposal sites in other areas within the Compact region, or devote its efforts to negotiating a contract with another compact authority for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste generated in the area served by the Central Interstate Compact Commission;

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT, in view of the fact that the Siting Studies that have been made in behalf of the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission have already eliminated most areas in Arkansas as potential waste disposal sites, and in view of the fact that the Arkansas General Assembly considers the six areas listed in the Phase II Siting Study report to be unsuitable for the location of low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities, due to the topography, annual rainfall, drainage, and underground water conditions attendant to the sites identified in such report, it is the consensus of the Arkansas General Assembly that the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission should seek to identify disposal sites in other areas within the Compact region, or the Compact should, preferably, explore the feasibility of entering into a contract with another compact authority for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste generated in this Compact area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

THAT a copy of this Resolution shall be furnished by the Secretary of State to the Commission of the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact and to the Arkansas members of such Compact Commission.