State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019 HCR 1015

By: Representative Ladyman
By: Senator G. Stubblefield

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO SUPPORT THE STUDY OF THE COMMERCIAL APPLICATION OF EXISTING TECHNOLOGY TO RECLAIM AND REPURPOSE SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL RODS.

Subtitle

TO SUPPORT THE STUDY OF THE COMMERCIAL APPLICATION OF EXISTING TECHNOLOGY TO RECLAIM AND REPURPOSE SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL RODS.

WHEREAS, in August 2016 the Argonne National Laboratory hosted a delegation from Arkansas, including staff from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission; and

WHEREAS, in January 2017 the Arkansas Alternative Energy Commission issued a recommendation to Governor Asa Hutchinson to support the University of Arkansas and the United States National Laboratories to prepare and make recommendations and to offer options on using existing technology to convert spent nuclear fuel rods into new nuclear fuel; and

WHEREAS, in August 2017 the Joint Committee on Energy held hearings on advanced nuclear technology to reprocess spent nuclear fuel and unanimously approved an interim study resolution on the matter; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018 the Joint Committee on Energy held a meeting at Arkansas Nuclear One and further discussed these issues, and the following points were made:

(1) The University of Arkansas system President, Dr. Donald Bobbitt, said that the University of Arkansas system, in conjunction with other institutions of higher education, can and are willing to provide a detailed analysis examining the benefits of "New Nuclear" compared to the risks of continued storage of spent fuel at Arkansas Nuclear One;

(2) The Argonne National Laboratory manager of the nuclear chemical engineering department, Dr. Mark Williamson, said that the fast reactor technology and electrochemical spent fuel reprocessing is ready for commercial development;

(3) The Department of Health section chief for radiation control, Mr. Bernard Bevill, said the Department of Health supports the application for funding the University of Arkansas analysis and the Argonne National Laboratory optimization design; and

(4) The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Chief Program Officer, Mr. Michael Grappe, said the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality supports the application for funding the University of Arkansas analysis and the Argonne National Laboratory optimization design,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the House of Representatives recommend that Governor Asa Hutchinson offer to the federal government a specific program to include a proposed location in Arkansas and for the assets required to close the nuclear fuel cycle and request grant funding of $26 million for the University of Arkansas education and risk analysis program and $62 million for the Argonne National Laboratory optimization design.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives recommend the Governor assemble a team composed of persons with expertise from the Arkansas General Assembly, the Executive Branch, the University of Arkansas, and the Argonne National Laboratory to submit a funding application to the United States Department of Energy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution shall be

transmitted to Governor Asa Hutchinson by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.