

Resolution in Support of the Department of Energy's Civilian  
Radioactive Waste Program Budget for Fiscal Year 2001

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**WHEREAS**, The Administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2001 for the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) includes a request for \$437.5 million for the Nuclear Waste Disposal Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Some \$325.5 million of the \$437.5 million total will come from the Nuclear Waste Fund, into which electricity ratepayers have paid through a rate surcharge on their utility bills totaling over \$16 billion since 1983; and

**WHEREAS**, There remains available in the U.S. Treasury nearly \$10 billion in the Nuclear Waste Fund for the sole purpose of safe permanent disposal of nuclear waste currently stored in 77 sites in 34 States in storage facilities that were never intended for indefinite storage of the spent nuclear fuel from civilian nuclear power plants; and

**WHEREAS**, DOE was obliged by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to begin accepting nuclear waste for permanent disposal beginning in January 1998 but failed to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, If DOE is to meet their present milestone schedule of beginning waste disposal by 2010 at the earliest, the Department needs to accomplish critical work during Fiscal Year 2001 leading to the Secretary of Energy's recommendation to the President on whether to proceed to license application for a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain; and

**WHEREAS**, The requested amount of \$437.5 million

represents a 24.6 percent increase in the amount Congress appropriated last year, and that increase is really restoring funds cut by Congress in Fiscal Year 2000 and is essential to meeting growing and urgent funding needs to get the Nuclear Waste Program back on track; *now therefore be it*

**RESOLVED**, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) convened in its 2000 Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C., expresses its concern that Congress has continued to divert Nuclear Waste Fund revenues to unrelated purposes other than solving the serious nuclear waste disposal problem and may continue that approach in the next budget, *and be it further*

**RESOLVED**, That the NARUC supports the Administration's Budget request of \$437.5 million and urges Congress to appropriate these funds to assure that the civilian radioactive waste management program can proceed to a site recommendation in 2001.

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Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, March 8, 2000.