

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the County of Branch desires to support the efforts of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to establish a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste by opening Yucca Mountain, NV.

WHEREAS, Over the past four decades, nuclear power has become a significant source for the nation's production of electricity. Michigan is among the majority of states that derive energy from nuclear plants; and

WHEREAS, Since the earliest days of nuclear power, the great dilemma associated with this technology is how to deal with the waste material that is produced. This high-level radioactive waste material demands exceptional care in all facets of its storage and disposal, including the transportation of this material; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. This legislation requires the federal government, through the U.S. Department of Energy, to build a facility for the permanent storage of high-level nuclear waste. This act, which was amended in 1987, includes a specific timetable to identify a suitable location and to establish the waste facility. The costs for this undertaking are to be paid from a fee that is assessed on all nuclear energy produced; and

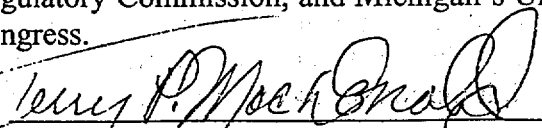
WHEREAS, In according with the federal act, Michigan electric customers have paid \$405.8 million into this federal fund for construction of the federal waste facility; and

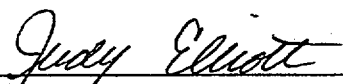
WHEREAS, There are serious concerns that the federal government is not complying with the timetables set forth in federal law. The U.S. Department of Energy, working with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must not fail to meet its obligation as provided by law; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Branch County Board of Commissioners call upon Michigan's elected officials to support the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in their effort to fulfill their obligation to establish a permanent repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for high-level nuclear waste; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Michigan's United States Senators and Representative members of Congress.

March 20, 2002


Terry P. MacDonald, Branch County Board
of Commissioners


Judy Elliott, Branch County Clerk

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