

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 197

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Energy should suspend spent nuclear fuel and radioactive target material reprocessing activities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 1996

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. SHAYS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on National Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Energy should suspend spent nuclear fuel and radioactive target material reprocessing activities.

Whereas reprocessing is a procedure used to separate plutonium and highly enriched uranium from spent nuclear fuel;

Whereas plutonium and highly enriched uranium constitute the fundamental materials used in a nuclear weapon;

Whereas the United States engaged in reprocessing in support of its nuclear weapons program from 1945 until 1992;

Whereas in the years after 1992, the need for further reprocessing for military purposes has been obviated by significant reductions in the United States nuclear weapons arsenal;

Whereas reprocessing has been proposed as a means for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive target material;

Whereas in recognition of the serious proliferation risks associated with reprocessing, the United States has renounced reprocessing for either civilian or military purposes;

Whereas reprocessing poses a danger to the environment, since reprocessing creates additional radioactive wastes;

Whereas the economic costs of reprocessing are high, and more cost-effective alternatives may be available for spent nuclear fuel management;

Whereas the Department of Energy has requested approximately \$300,000,000 for reprocessing activities at the Savannah River site in South Carolina and \$50,000,000 for a new form of reprocessing called pyroprocessing activities at Argonne National Laboratory-West in Idaho; and

Whereas the Department of Energy has not sufficiently explored the alternative methods for treatment of spent nuclear fuel which may prove to be more cost-effective, environmentally sound, and proliferation resistant than reprocessing: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that the
- 3 Department of Energy should suspend its spent nuclear

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- 1 fuel and radioactive target material reprocessing activities
- 2 and postpone plans for further reprocessing.

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