

1 **NYE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11**

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE NYE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
3 SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS TO COMPLETE THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN LICENSING PROCESS
4 AND RESOLVE THE NUCLEAR WASTE ISSUE

5 WHEREAS, Nye County Nevada is the third largest county in the continental United States
6 comprising over 11 million acres; and

7 WHEREAS, almost 98 percent of this land is under either management or control of various
8 agencies of the federal government; and

9 WHEREAS, Department of Defense and Department of Energy have withdrawn approximately 4
10 million acres from public access and restricted this land to defense, nuclear and other related
11 government uses; and

12 WHEREAS, almost 1000 nuclear devices were detonated on the Nevada Test Site; and

13 WHEREAS, the 1987 Nuclear Waste Policy Act amendment selected Yucca Mountain as the
14 single site to be studied, and in 2002 Congress approved the site for development of a repository; and

15 WHEREAS, Nuclear energy is needed to integrate with renewable energy to significantly reduce
16 CO2 emissions; and

17 WHEREAS, the United States has over 80,000 tons of Spent Nuclear Fuel and large quantities of
18 High-Level Waste and other radioactive waste that will require isolation in geologic repositories; and

19 WHEREAS, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act directs the Department of Energy to pursue a
20 licensing proceeding to determine if Yucca Mountain is a safe site to house a repository for Spent Fuel
21 and High-Level nuclear waste; and

22 WHEREAS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is directed by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to
23 adjudicate if Yucca Mountain is safe to house a nuclear waste repository; and

24 WHEREAS, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act has never been repealed and remains the law of the
25 land; and

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1 WHEREAS, this waste is currently located in temporary storage facilities at over 100 sites in 39
2 states; and

3 WHEREAS, reprocessing of spent fuel and fast reactors have the potential to reduce the amount
4 of waste generated in the future, there will always be large quantities of radioactive waste for geologic
5 disposal; and

6 WHEREAS, Nye County and 8 other Nevada counties have passed resolutions supporting the
7 completion of the Yucca Mountain licensing process by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to
8 determine if Yucca Mountain is safe; and

9 WHEREAS, the Nye County Board of County Commissioners have approved multiple
10 resolutions and letters to the federal government asking for negotiations with Nye County and the State
11 of Nevada to identify a package that includes mitigation and benefits for Nevada residents; and

12 WHEREAS, the federal government has made no serious efforts to negotiate with State and local
13 leaders or offer benefits to residents of Nevada; and

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nye County Board of Commissioners does
15 hereby continue to support the efforts to complete the Yucca Mountain licensing process and resolve the
16 nuclear waste issue; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of that effort, Nye County supports the use of
18 innovative technologies to minimize the amount of nuclear waste. The research and investments for
19 these technologies should be done in Nevada creating jobs and enhancing Nevada's Universities; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, Nye County
21 encourages the Trump Administration and Congress to develop a benefit package that offers jobs,
22 educational benefits and with potential revenue for services to residents and visitors of Nye County and
23 the State of Nevada.

24 PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED the 7th day of April, 2020.

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2 AYES:

NAYES:

3 KOENIG

NONE

4 STRICKLAND

5 WICHMAN

6 COX


7 BLUNDO


8 Absent:

9 NONE

10 NYE COUNTY
11 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

ATTEST:

12 
13 John Koenig, Chairman

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15 Sandra L Merlino, Nye County Clerk
16 And Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board
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