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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On March 11, 2011, Japan was struck by an earthquake that measured 9.0 in Richter magnitude; the nation was then subsequently struck by a tsunami that left several thousands of people homeless, missing, or dead; and

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WHEREAS, This catastrophe also resulted in significant damage to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, located off the coast in the Fukushima Prefecture of Japan, that has led to the threat of a nuclear reactor meltdown and the risk of extremely dangerous levels of radiation being leaked into the environment; and

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WHEREAS, There are 11 nuclear reactors currently operating in this State; and

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WHEREAS, One nuclear reactor, the already-closed Zion Station in Lake County on Lake Michigan, is in the process of being decommissioned and its spent nuclear fuel remains onsite in massive "dry storage" bunkers from Zion's operating years of 1973 to 1997; and

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WHEREAS, All of the nuclear reactors currently operating in this State store their spent nuclear fuel onsite; and

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1 WHEREAS, In 2002, President George W. Bush and the United
2 States Congress authorized the development of a safe repository
3 at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, in which to store our nation's
4 nuclear waste, known as the Yucca Mountain Project; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2010, President Barack Obama and the United
6 States Congress ended funding for the Yucca Mountain Project;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we strongly urge the
10 United States Congress to restore the funding of the Yucca
11 Mountain Project in Nevada and request that the spent nuclear
12 waste in the State of Illinois be moved away from Lake Michigan
13 and any Illinois river and be sent to the Yucca Mountain
14 Project as soon as possible; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 distributed to members of the General Assembly, the Governor,
17 and the Illinois congressional delegation.