

RESOLUTION 68-15

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3 Title: Evaluation of Canadian Underground Nuclear Waste Repository
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5 Introduced by: Gerald Natzke, DO, for the Genesee County Delegation
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7 Original Author: Deborah Duncan, MD
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee D
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11 House Action: **APPROVED**
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14 Whereas, the Ontario Power Generation is proposing to construct an
15 underground, long-term burial facility for low- and intermediate-level radioactive
16 waste at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, and
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18 Whereas, this site is less than a mile inland from the shore of Lake Huron, and
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20 Whereas, placing a permanent nuclear waste burial facility so close to the
21 Great Lakes shoreline is a matter of serious concern for the inhabitants of the Great
22 Lakes states and provinces, and
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24 Whereas, a leak or breach of radioactivity from this waste facility could damage
25 the ecology of the lakes, and
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27 Whereas, tens of millions of United States and Canadian citizens depend on
28 the lakes for drinking water, fisheries, tourism, recreation, and other industrial and
29 economic uses, and
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31 Whereas, Michigan recognizes the duty of the legislative branch of government
32 to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and the state's natural
33 resources, and
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35 Whereas, the Michigan Legislature has recognized the inherent dangers of
36 siting a radioactive waste storage facility near the shores of the Great Lakes, and
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38 Whereas, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is a bi-national agreement
39 to address critical environmental health issues in the Great Lakes region, with the
40 overall purpose of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological
41 integrity of the Great Lakes, and
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43 Whereas, the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty recognizes the immense
44 importance of the Great Lakes as a shared resource between the United States and
45 Canada, and
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47 Whereas, the wisdom of the Treaty drafters is reflected in the creation of the
48 International Joint Commission (IJC), composed of three members from the United

49 States and three members from Canada, to act as impartial watchdogs over the
50 boundary waters between the countries, and

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52 Whereas, the IJC has frequently been asked to weigh in on major topics of
53 concern to the Great Lakes region; therefore be it

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55 RESOLVED: That MSMS, county Medical Societies, and the American
56 Medical Association endeavor to engage with the Michigan Senate and the House of
57 Representatives, to urge the President of the United States, the Secretary of State,
58 and the Congress of the United States to invoke the participation of the International
59 Joint Commission to evaluate the proposed underground nuclear waste repository in
60 Ontario, Canada, and similar facilities; and be it further

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62 RESOLVED: That that MSMS, county Medical Societies, and the American
63 Medical Association urge the organized medicine entities of the other Great Lakes
64 states and Canadian provinces to adopt resolutions seeking regulations to protect the
65 Great Lakes region from radioactive waste and to petition their respective state and
66 federal governments to engage the International Joint Commission to evaluate the
67 proposed underground nuclear waste repository in Ontario, Canada, and similar
68 facilities; and be it further

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70 RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of
71 the United States, the Prime Minister of Canada, the United States Secretary of State,
72 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
73 Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the Speaker
74 of the Canadian Senate, the Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, and
75 leadership of the state medical societies of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New York,
76 Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ontario, and Quebec.

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79 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: None