



For Immediate Release:  
February 26, 2014

Contact:  
Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood, (517) 373-7800  
Rep. Sarah Roberts, (517) 373-1180  
Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director for UTM,  
(517) 802-8650

---

## **Resolution Signifies Further Opposition to Canadian Nuclear Waste Repository**

### *United Tribes of Michigan Joins in Resistance to DGR*

LANSING –Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D – Taylor) and Representative Sarah Roberts (D – St. Clair Shores) today praised the United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) for adopting a resolution in opposition to a proposal to store nuclear waste in an underground facility at the Bruce nuclear power site, which is located in Kincardine, Ontario near the shores of Lake Huron. United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) is open to all of the twelve federally recognized Indian Tribes located in Michigan.

“The United Tribes of Michigan’s opposition to the proposed Canadian nuclear waste dump is an important distinction in the fight against this potentially disastrous nuclear waste project just off the shores of Lake Huron,” said Senator Hopgood. “While there is a litany of reasons to oppose the dump, respect for the concerns of Michigan’s Indian Tribes and their spiritual and cultural connection to the waters is a very real one that the Canadian government simply cannot ignore.”

The threat of radioactive water could be devastating not only to Michigan’s environment, but also to its industries, such as agriculture, that depend on Great Lakes water. Agriculture and bio-based businesses add more than \$91.4 billion to the state economy annually. The United Tribes of Michigan now join with other First Nation Tribes in Canada that have expressed opposition to this project. The Michigan Agri-Business Association, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, and 15 other broad-based industrial and environmental associations across the state have

also voiced their opposition in letters to the Canadian Joint Review Panel considering the nuclear waste site.

“From the moment this proposal was brought to my attention, its flawed science and ill-advised reasoning have propelled me to oppose the project in its entirety,” said Representative Sarah Roberts (D – St. Clair Shores). “The more I learn of the nuclear waste dump’s very real potential for hazardous effects on our waters, the more firmly I oppose its construction, and I am thrilled to see that the United Tribes of Michigan share this same sentiment.”

UTM provides a forum for the Tribes in Michigan to address issues of common concern and is committed to join forces to advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign Indian Tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations.

“Tribes and First Nations’ citizens have a strong spiritual and cultural connection to the Waters, the protection and preservation of which are fundamental to the exercise of treaty rights and to the perpetuation of our sense of place, our sense of being, and our way of life,” said Homer A. Mandoka, President of UTM. “The United Tribes of Michigan stands firmly opposed to the construction of a nuclear waste storage facility at the Bruce Nuclear Power Plant site in Ontario, or any other site situated in the drainage basin for the Great Lakes.”

###