

**2015 RESOLUTION NO. R15-192**

*Official Resolution of the Board of Commissioners  
Macomb County, Michigan*

**Resolution Opposing The Construction Of An Underground Nuclear Waste Repository In Ontario, Canada, Nor Any Other Underground Repository Be Constructed In the Great Lakes Basin, in Canada, The United States or Any First Nation Property**

**Commissioner Fred Miller, on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Offers the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners passed a similar resolution in 2008, resolution number 42, and in 2013, resolution 142, to oppose the proposed nuclear waste repository near Kincardine, Ontario; and

WHEREAS, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners continues to place a high value on the water quality of Lake St. Clair and the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are an irreplaceable resource containing 22 percent of the world's and 95 percent of North America's fresh water which is vital to human and environmental health; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are essential to the economic and agricultural well-being of the area and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Lake Huron and its connecting waters, including Lake St. Clair, are the source of drinking water for millions of people downstream in the United States, Canada and First Nation; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Act 204 of 1987, the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority Act, MCL 333.26201 – 333.26226, set forth siting criteria for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste. Such criteria excludes any site "located within 10 miles of Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, St. Mary's River, Detroit River, St. Clair River or Lake St. Clair;" and

WHEREAS, to protect water quality, other specifications of Act 204 excludes sites (1) located within a 500 year floodplain; (2) located over a sole source aquifer; or, (3) located where the hydrogeology beneath the site discharges groundwater to the land surface within 3,000 feet of the boundaries of the site; and

WHEREAS, no Michigan site was likely to meet all statutory siting criteria and similar siting criteria should be used in Canada and other locations in the Great Lakes Basin; and

WHEREAS, Ontario Power Generation has been given preliminary approval to construct an underground long-term burial facility for all of Ontario's low and intermediate level radioactive waste at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, some of which is highly radioactive and much of

which will remain toxic for over 100,000 years. This site, less than a mile inland from the shore of Lake Huron and about 440 yards below the lake level, is approximately 120 miles upstream from the main drinking water intakes for southeast Michigan; and

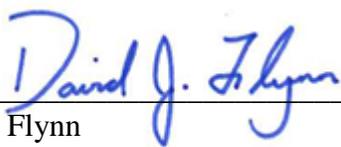
WHEREAS, the Canadian Minister of the Environment now has until December 2, 2015, to give final approval to the nuclear waste repository; the general public, Aboriginal groups and registered participants in the Deep Geological Review process now have until September 1, 2015, to comment on the potential conditions of the repository; and

WHEREAS, placing a permanent nuclear waste burial facility so close to the Great Lakes is ill-advised. The potential damage to the Great Lakes from any leak or breach of radioactivity far outweighs any benefits derived from burying radioactive waste at this site. The ecology of the Lakes, which is valuable beyond measure to the health and economic well-being of this entire region, should not be placed at risk by storing radioactive waste so close to the shoreline;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, in order to protect the Great Lakes and its tributaries, urges that neither this proposed nuclear waste repository at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station nor any other underground repository be constructed in the Great Lakes Basin, in Canada, the United States or any First Nation property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners urge Canadian officials to find alternatives to Ontario Power Generation's proposal to bury nuclear waste in the Great Lakes basin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Rick Snyder, all Macomb County state legislative delegation, U.S. Senator Gary Peters, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Representative Candice Miller, U.S. Representative Sander Levin, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, and Michael Binder, President and CEO of Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

  
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Dave Flynn  
Chairman, Macomb County Commission  
Commissioner, District 4

  
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Fred Miller  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 9

  
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Carmella Sabaugh  
Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds

*Passed at 8/6/15 Full Board Meeting*