

# HJR242 INTRODUCED



1 HJR242  
2 ZQ6J8RK-1  
3 By Representatives Harrison, Lee  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 12-Mar-26



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HJR\_\_\_ URGING THE GOVERNOR AND RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES TO  
RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL AND TAKE STATE  
ACTIONS TOWARD ITS DEVELOPMENT.

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has had two large  
nuclear power facilities for many years, the Browns Ferry  
Nuclear Plant near Athens, Alabama, and the Joseph M. Farley  
Nuclear Generating Plant near Dothan, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the operation of these plants has produced  
substantial quantities of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) that is  
currently stored on-site at both facilities; and

WHEREAS, Alabama ratepayers have paid a tax of one  
dollar per megawatt-hour from the energy generated by these  
two plants, which has gone into a federal Nuclear Waste Fund  
to develop a geologic repository for the permanent disposal  
of this spent nuclear fuel, pursuant to the Nuclear Waste  
Policy Act of 1982; and

WHEREAS, there is no federal effort underway to  
develop a permanent geologic repository for spent nuclear  
fuel; and

WHEREAS, spent nuclear fuel contains several  
categories of materials of varying economic value, enormous  
energy potential, and long-term radiological hazard; and

WHEREAS, the short-term concerns (on the order of  
decades) around the radiotoxicity of spent nuclear fuel are



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29 dominated by fission products that decay quickly and can no  
30 longer undergo fission to release energy; and

31 WHEREAS, the long-term concerns (on the order of  
32 thousands of years) about the radiotoxicity of spent nuclear  
33 fuel are dominated by transuranic materials that still have  
34 the potential to undergo fission to release energy, which  
35 would transform them into short-term fission products; and

36 WHEREAS, the uranium that makes up the majority of  
37 the spent nuclear fuel has very little radioactivity and has  
38 undergone little change in the reactor beyond a depletion of  
39 its fissile content, and is suitable for recycle or disposal  
40 as low-level waste, not requiring the complexity and expense  
41 of a geologic repository, so long as it is sufficiently  
42 decontaminated from fission products and transuranics; and

43 WHEREAS, the economics of our national uranium supply  
44 have continued to degrade, both as a consequence of  
45 long-term under-investment as well as over-reliance on  
46 foreign suppliers, including adversarial nations such as  
47 Russia; and

48 WHEREAS, increasingly high costs for conventional  
49 nuclear power puts at risk the continued operation of the  
50 Browns Ferry and Farley plants; and

51 WHEREAS, the aging infrastructure of both of these  
52 facilities also leads to strong concerns about the status of  
53 their sites, their spent nuclear fuel storage, and the  
54 economic impact to the local communities if and when their  
55 operators elect to decommission these plants at some point  
56 in the future; and



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57           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy (DOE)  
58           issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking expressions  
59           of interest from states to host Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation  
60           Campuses (NLICs) as voluntary federal-state partnerships to  
61           modernize the full nuclear fuel cycle, strengthen U.S.  
62           leadership in advanced nuclear energy, drive economic  
63           growth, create jobs, enhance energy security, and support  
64           advanced reactors, fuel fabrication, enrichment, used fuel  
65           reprocessing and recycling, waste disposition,  
66           manufacturing, power generation, and related infrastructure;  
67           and

68           WHEREAS, recent studies have been undertaken in the  
69           state that point to the potential to use the materials in  
70           spent nuclear fuel as fuel sources in advanced reactors that  
71           avoid conventional fuel fabrication by the use of liquid  
72           fuel; and

73           WHEREAS, these studies have been key in the announced  
74           award of federal funds to the Alabama team of Flibe Energy,  
75           Inc., Alabama A&M University (AAMU), and Tennessee Valley  
76           Authority (TVA) to continue to develop an approach to  
77           recycle spent nuclear fuel into new liquid fuel suitable for  
78           these locally-developed, advanced reactors; now therefore,

79           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
80           HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That:

81           (1) The Legislature strongly supports using existing  
82           spent nuclear fuel resources in Alabama as a future energy  
83           resource.

84           (2) The Legislature strongly supports responding to



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85 the DOE request for information around NLIC sites in Alabama  
86 or participating in regional efforts, and urges the  
87 Governor, in coordination with relevant state agencies -  
88 including the Alabama Department of Workforce Development  
89 and the Alabama Public Service Commission - to prepare and  
90 submit a response by April 1, 2026 (or prepare for future  
91 opportunities if more strategic), outlining Alabama's  
92 interest in recycling spent fuel into new liquid fuels for  
93 advanced reactors, potential legacy site use, regional  
94 collaboration, and partnership framework.

95 (3) The Governor and relevant agencies are further  
96 urged to emphasize in any such response how selection could  
97 unlock future federal funding for universities, small  
98 businesses, workforce programs, and related nuclear  
99 innovation, and to engage Alabama industry partners,  
100 utilities, research institutions, workforce providers, and  
101 communities in developing the proposal, considering regional  
102 approaches and potential state support mechanisms contingent  
103 on federal selection and appropriations.

104 (4) The Governor and relevant agencies recognize  
105 efforts at Alabama A&M University to advance a Center for  
106 Nuclear Science and Engineering (CNSE) to become a nuclear  
107 center of excellence with notable emphasis in liquid fuel  
108 reactor technologies, intended to complement AAMU's recent  
109 selection as a strategic leader in Alabama developing  
110 technologies to support artificial intelligence and data  
111 centers.

112 (5) Copies of this resolution be transmitted to the



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113 Governor of Alabama, the U.S. Secretary of Energy, the  
114 Alabama congressional delegation, and appropriate  
115 legislative committees.

116 (6) This resolution take effect immediately upon  
117 passage and approval by the Governor, or upon becoming law.