

SJR89 INTRODUCED



1 SJR89
2 3PUG3ZV-1
3 By Senator Stutts
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 17-Mar-26



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4 SJR___ URGING THE GOVERNOR AND RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES TO
5 RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL AND TAKE STATE
6 ACTIONS TOWARD ITS DEVELOPMENT.
7

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the aging infrastructure of both of these facilities also leads to strong concerns about the status of their sites, their spent nuclear fuel storage, and the economic impact to the local communities if and when their operators elect to decommission these plants at some point 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.



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84 (2) The Legislature strongly supports responding to
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.



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

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