

**Michigan House of Representatives
Energy and Technology Committee
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In 1982, Congress passed legislation directing the U. S. Department of Energy to build and operate a deep geologic repository for used nuclear fuel and other high-level radioactive waste. Under this legislation—the Nuclear Waste Policy Act—Congress set a deadline of 1998 for DOE to begin storing used nuclear fuel from nuclear power plants.

America and Michigan has been waiting ever since.

In 2002 President Bush approved Yucca Mountain as the repository site and submitted a license application. Unfortunately, after collecting over \$35 billion from the ratepayers to fund a repository, President Obama scraped the plan putting local Michigan communities at risk.

Monroe County is host to the Fermi II Nuclear Power Plant. Fermi II is one of three Michigan nuclear plants that have begun or are planning on-site storage, creating security risks in local communities across Michigan. Those risks would have, by now, been alleviated if congress and the administration would have accepted its statutory responsibility to begin accepting nuclear wastes in 1998.

While a county commissioner, I represented the Board on the Local Government Nuclear Waste Coalition, which included membership from across the country. After researching options of nuclear waste storage, the Yucca Mountain repository was chosen by the coalition to be the safest way to store nuclear wastes. I have also toured Yucca Mountain twice having seen the extensive research being conducted to insure environmental safety and national security.

Now, more than ever, Yucca Mountain should be opened as the place for high level nuclear waste storage. There are several reasons that make the Yucca project so attractive. However, for me, the most important is that someday the stored nuclear waste of today will become a reusable and useful commodity that can be retrieved from storage and reused again for industrial, medical and national security proposes.

It just makes environmental sense to be able to retrieve and reuse fuels. Especially in this time of reusable and green fuel technology.

Even though the development of recycling technologies may be decades away, plans for the future must move ahead; and the federal government must also accept its statutory responsibility that was upheld by the courts and paid for by the ratepayers, to provide a disposal facility which will secure nuclear waste for future generations and provide a safe environment within our local communities.