

Senators Allen and Sanborn offered the following concurrent resolution:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 39.

A concurrent resolution to urge the United States Department of Energy to develop the Rare Isotope Accelerator at Michigan State University.

Whereas, Basic scientific research provides a foundation of knowledge that makes possible advances in virtually all fields. Gaining new understanding of elements can lead to discoveries that can impact multiple aspects of life—from medicine to national security. In an effort to spur our country to new achievements in nuclear science, the federal government is committed to developing the Rare Isotope Accelerator (RIA). This major project has significant implications for our nation, our state, and our world; and

Whereas, Michigan's achievements in scientific research are well-established. Our universities have spearheaded several breakthroughs that reap benefits for the world today. The establishment and success of the Life Sciences Corridor is an example of the commitment our state has made to advancing the frontiers of knowledge; and

Whereas, The Rare Isotope Accelerator will be dedicated to producing and exploring isotopes that cannot be found in nature today. The research will be a natural extension of the activities currently conducted at the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSCL) at Michigan State University. This highly regarded facility has demonstrated its value to the country with a proven record of accomplishment and cost effectiveness. While the new accelerator will be many times more powerful, the existing resources, infrastructure, and personnel at Michigan State University have made the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory the leading rare isotope research facility in the country; and

Whereas, The Department of Energy listed the Rare Isotope Accelerator project as tied for third in its list of priority projects over the next twenty years. The RIA must now pass through several stages before being officially funded; and

Whereas, Locating the Rare Isotope Accelerator at Michigan State University is a logical extension of the commitment the nation has already made and the work that is already conducted at NSCL. The university has developed ambitious plans for this next generation of isotope research. Renewing the country's wise investment by locating the new Rare Isotope Accelerator at Michigan State University is a decision that is in the country's best interest for many reasons; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That we urge the United States Department of Energy to develop the Rare Isotope Accelerator at Michigan State University; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of Energy and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.