

SJR89 INTRODUCED



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



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SJR___ 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.



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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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