

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6901

To prohibit the use of Federal funds for the private interim storage of spent nuclear fuel, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2022

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ (for herself, Mr. PFLUGER, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DOGGETT, and Ms. GRANGER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To prohibit the use of Federal funds for the private interim storage of spent nuclear fuel, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR**  
4 **PRIVATE INTERIM STORAGE OF SPENT NU-**  
5 **CLEAR FUEL UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT A PER-**  
6 **MANENT REPOSITORY IS AVAILABLE TO AC-**  
7 **CEPT THE SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) DISPOSAL; MONITORED RETRIEVABLE STOR-  
10 AGE FACILITY; REPOSITORY; SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL;

1 STORAGE.—The terms “disposal”, “monitored re-  
2 trievable storage facility”, “repository”, “spent nu-  
3 clear fuel”, and “storage” have the meanings given  
4 the terms in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy  
5 Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

6 (2) MONITORED RETRIEVABLE STORAGE.—The  
7 term “monitored retrievable storage” has the same  
8 meaning as in subtitle C of title I of the Nuclear  
9 Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10161 et seq.).

10 (b) PROHIBITION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
12 provision of law and subject to subsection (c), during  
13 the period described in subsection (d), no Federal  
14 funds made available under any Act, including  
15 amounts made available under the permanent judg-  
16 ment appropriation established pursuant to section  
17 1304 of title 31, United States Code (commonly  
18 known as the “Judgment Fund”), for any fiscal year  
19 may be used for any costs associated with the identi-  
20 fication, development, licensing, granting of rights-  
21 of-way, construction, operation, decommissioning, or  
22 post-decommissioning maintenance and monitoring  
23 of any privately owned—

24 (A) monitored retrievable storage facility;

1 (B) consolidated interim storage facility  
2 that serves the purpose and function of mon-  
3 itored retrievable storage under the Nuclear  
4 Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101 et  
5 seq.); or

6 (C) spent nuclear fuel storage facility  
7 that—

8 (i) is not—

9 (I) colocated at the site of a nu-  
10 clear fuel production, fabrication, or  
11 utilization facility; or

12 (II) in operation as of the date of  
13 enactment of this Act; and

14 (ii) serves the purpose and function of  
15 monitored retrievable storage under the  
16 Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42  
17 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

18 (2) SCOPE.—The prohibition described in para-  
19 graph (1) extends to contracting for the services of  
20 a private company for any storage of spent nuclear  
21 fuel at, or transportation of spent nuclear fuel to, a  
22 privately owned facility that serves the purpose and  
23 function of monitored retrievable storage under the  
24 Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101  
25 et seq.) for the purpose of consolidating the storage

1 of domestic spent nuclear fuel at 1 or more facilities  
2 until such time that a repository is available to ac-  
3 cept the spent nuclear fuel for permanent disposal.

4 (c) LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (b) does not pro-  
5 hibit—

6 (1) a manufacturer of nuclear reactors or fabri-  
7 cator of nuclear fuel from accepting spent nuclear  
8 fuel at the site where the spent nuclear fuel is fab-  
9 ricated or generated;

10 (2) an operating or decommissioned nuclear  
11 power plant from accepting spent nuclear fuel for in-  
12 terim storage at the site of the plant;

13 (3) the use of Federal funds for the costs de-  
14 scribed in that subsection that are associated with  
15 the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2);

16 (4) the use of Federal funds for storage of  
17 spent nuclear fuel at, or the transportation of spent  
18 nuclear fuel to, federally owned facilities at Depart-  
19 ment of Energy sites in existence as of the date of  
20 enactment of this Act; or

21 (5) the transfer of spent nuclear fuel owned by  
22 the Department of Energy between Department of  
23 Energy sites.

24 (d) PERIOD OF PROHIBITION DESCRIBED.—The pe-  
25 riod referred to in subsection (b) is the period beginning

1 on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the  
2 date on which the Secretary of Energy certifies to Con-  
3 gress that a permanent repository is available to accept  
4 the spent nuclear fuel.

5 (e) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FUNDS.—No funds of  
6 the Department of Energy shall be used to pay to any  
7 privately owned facility described in subsection (b) any  
8 damages awarded in any civil action in an appropriate dis-  
9 trict court of the United States relating to the prohibition  
10 under subsection (b).

11 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
12 tion shall be construed to imply that, prior to the date  
13 of enactment of this Act, any privately owned facility de-  
14 scribed in subsection (b) may receive any funds from the  
15 Federal Government for the activities prohibited under  
16 that subsection.

17 (g) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
18 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall  
19 submit to Congress a report detailing—

20 (1) possible locations, or a description of a pos-  
21 sible siting process, for future consolidated interim  
22 storage facilities and repositories of spent nuclear  
23 fuel if Congress were to authorize the siting, con-  
24 struction, and operation of new storage facilities or

1        repositories through the use of a consent-based sys-  
2        tem; and  
3                (2) the estimated costs and risks of that future  
4        consolidated interim storage.

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