



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

June 21, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, DC 20510-7020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
Capitol Building, S-230
Washington, DC 20510-7010

Stephen Morris
*Senate President
Kansas Senate
President, NCSL*

Michael P. Adams
*Director, Strategic Planning
Virginia Senate
Staff Chair, NCSL*

William Pound
Executive Director

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) urges the Senate to support section 312 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 (S. 2465), as reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee that would create a pilot program within the Department of Energy to license, construct, and operate consolidated interim storage facilities as needed for spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste.

Additionally, NCSL urges that the siting of such facilities be the result of a consent based approach that involves all affected levels of government, including state legislatures. NCSL also supports use of the Nuclear Waste Fund to provide interim storage financing mechanisms and incentives to voluntary host communities.

Enactment of the pilot project will help advance national efforts to address spent fuel storage and high level radioactive waste management thereby ensuring that nuclear power remains an integral part of a national energy plan as long term storage plans are developed.

NCSL has a long history of working on issues related to nuclear waste management and welcomes the opportunity to work with Congress to continue to advance the conversation forward. Please feel free to contact NCSL staff Ben Husch (ben.husch@ncsl.org) or Tamra Spielvogel (tamra.spielvogel@ncsl.org) for more information.

Sincerely,

Senator Stephen R. Morris
Senate President, Kansas
President, NCSL

Delegate Sally Young Jameson
Maryland House of Delegates
Chair, NCSL Nuclear Legislative Workgroup