

FRED UPTON  
MEMBER DAY TESTIMONY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson,

I am here today to express to you my strong support for and request that you make sure the E&W appropriations bill includes the President's requested funding to restart federal efforts to complete the licensing process for a nuclear waste repository.

Completing the licensing process will provide the authoritative answers about the safety of the nuclear waste repository. And this funding should cover both the civilian spent fuel and the defense waste, from our nuclear navy and from cleanup sites, such as at Hanford, in Washington State.

Completing the licensing is critical to opening the path to meeting the nation's legal and moral obligations to dispose of the used nuclear fuel and other high-level waste currently stranded at 121 sites in 39 states around the nation—including in my home state of Michigan.

I and many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as you know, believe action this year is important. The current Administration supports resuming the nuclear waste program. We in the U.S. House of Representatives have demonstrated strong bi-partisan support for resolving the decade-old political impasse. Let's take action this year, so we can restart the process.

We must recognize that failure to take timely action will continue to strand waste in our states, including on the Great Lakes in my district, while ratepayers have paid some \$40 billion towards a permanent repository. Failure will continue to cost American taxpayers, who are already on the hook for more than \$34 billion in damages, which grows by nearly \$1 billion for each year of delay.