



*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*

**MISSOURI SENATE**  
JEFFERSON CITY

*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Senate Committee Hears Bill to Keep Missouri from Being Radioactive Waste Pipeline to the West** *New Fees on Nuclear Waste Will Make Missouri Less Likely Route*

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – The Senate Transportation Committee today heard testimony of a bill that would end an incentive for nuclear waste to be shipped using Missouri’s highways and rail system. Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, presented the bill that creates a fee to be charged to shippers for all trucks or trains carrying radioactive waste through the state. Missouri’s surrounding states, including Iowa, charge similar fees for nuclear waste shipments on their highways.

Gibbons says because Missouri currently charges no fees, routes through Missouri are being used even though they may be less safe than other routes in order for shippers to save money.

“Missouri should not be the ‘Gateway to the West’ for nuclear waste dumpsites and these fees are the first step in making sure that doesn’t happen,” Gibbons said. “This bill will eliminate the incentive for shippers to transport dangerous nuclear waste through our communities and countryside.”

The Department of Energy has mandated that by 2010, all repositories for nuclear waste be moved to Yucca Mountain, Nevada. In the past 60 days, the federal department has pushed through a new plan that moves waste to a temporary pad site in Utah until the Yucca Mountain site is completed. They have designated Interstate-70 and Interstate-80 as preferred routes.

Gibbons said this change means Missouri will see more shipments sooner than expected.

“We need to act fast and get these fees in place because the Department of Energy has estimated that Missouri could be the pipeline for as many as 20,000 nuclear waste shipments ,” Gibbons said.

Senate Bill 976 requires all fees collected under the proposal to be deposited into the Environmental Radiation Monitoring Fund. Money from the fund will be used to pay for highway patrol escorts of waste shipments, conducting of statewide radiation monitoring, and training for state and local emergency responders should an accident involving a radioactive shipment occur.

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## GIBBONS NUCLEAR WASTE FEES

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“Not only will these fees make shippers think twice before using Missouri’s rails and highways,” he said, “but more importantly, they will make sure our emergency responders are fully prepared to deal with any problems.”

The proposed fees are similar to Iowa’s rates; \$1800 for each cask shipped by truck, plus a \$25 surcharge per mile over 200 miles traveled in Missouri. Rail shipments would be charged \$1300, with \$125 surcharge for each additional cask.

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