



*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 Approves 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 Missouri Senate approved a bill today that prevent Missouri from being the preferred, low cost route for the shipment of nuclear waste. Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, said he sponsored the bill because a federal mandate means that Missouri will see more shipments of nuclear waste 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 route for as many as 20,000 nuclear waste shipments,” Gibbons said. “And I don’t want Missouri to be the radioactive waste pipeline to the West.”

The Department of Energy has mandated that by 2010, all repositories for nuclear waste be moved to Yucca Mountain, Nevada, designating I-70 and I-80 as preferred routes.

Gibbons’ bill, Senate Bill 976, creates a fee 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.

“These fees will put an end to the incentive for shippers to choose Missouri over our neighboring states,” Gibbons said. “These fees will also make sure our emergency responders are prepared to deal with any problems.”

The bill 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.

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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