

## ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

## SECOND SESSION

## LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 465

Introduced by Rogert, 16; Hansen, 42; Janssen, 15; Krist, 10;  
Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7; White, 8.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the benefits associated with constructing another nuclear power plant in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. The Fort Calhoun Station is a nuclear power plant owned and operated by the Omaha Public Power District and is located on the west bank of the Missouri River nineteen miles north of Omaha.

Since the 1970's, there are new reactor designs that have been created, and there are multiple safeguards that have been put into place to ensure safety. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulates one hundred four nuclear power plants in the nation, including the Fort Calhoun Station. The Commission exists for the purpose of ensuring safety for the citizenry and the environment while enabling the use of radioactive material for public benefit.

The nuclear power industry in the United States has one of the lowest rates for accidents per worker at the nuclear power plants. In 2008, the rate held at 0.13 industrial accidents per two hundred thousand worker-hours, which is significantly lower than the 0.24 rate in 2005.

In 1957, the Price-Anderson Act established financial

liability to ensure that each reactor company is liable for approximately one hundred million dollars in damages in the event of a reactor accident. As a result of this act as amended, in combination with the advent of computer technology, communication and accountability at the nuclear power plants have progressed and evolved over time.

Nuclear power is consistent, available, environmentally clean, safe, and cost effective. It does not produce harmful carbon dioxide emissions nor does it deplete our natural resources. Nuclear power has a long production life, and the power that is produced has the potential for reprocessing as is done in France, Japan, and Russia.

In February 2010, the eight billion dollars of federal loan guarantees under the administration of President Barack Obama will fund the construction of two nuclear reactors in the State of Georgia. This will open up immediate opportunities to construct nuclear power plants all over the nation, thereby reducing greenhouse gases associated with global warming and, at the same time, revitalize our economy through the creation of jobs during the construction and operation of nuclear power plants.

It is estimated that the construction of the two nuclear reactors in Georgia will create three thousand five hundred jobs and eight hundred fifty permanent jobs during their operation.

For these reasons, it is important to conduct a study on the benefits associated with building another nuclear power plant in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.