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Overwhelming Vote by Texas Legislators to Halt Radioactive Waste Storage

Austin, TX - Overwhelming opposition to high-level radioactive waste storage in Texas was demonstrated on with the passage of HB 7 unanimously in the state Senate and by 119-3 on September 2 in the House. Such a strong bipartisan vote is rare these days in Texas.

"These strong bipartisan votes are a clear message from the Texas Legislature to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. When it comes to storage of deadly radioactive waste in Texas: We Don't Want It!," said SEED Coalition Director Karen Hadden. "We hope the bill will provide the safety protections Texans need and prevent unnecessary transportation risks nationwide."

"The U.S. Nuclear regulatory Commission is are likely to issue in the next few days a license to store up to 40,000 metric tons of the nation's most dangerous nuclear reactor waste in Andrews County, Texas. With the passage of this bill, the state can deny the permits necessary to dump new waste at the site. We hope HB 7 sends a clear message to the feds: We don't want it!" said Adrian Shelley, Director of Public Citizen's Texas Office.

"This bill will help support our legal case opposing licensing for high-level radioactive waste storage, which is now at the DC Circuit Court of Appeals," said Cyrus Reed, Conservation Director for the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. SEED Coalition, Beyond Nuclear and a coalition of oil and gas industries led by Fasken Oil and Ranch also have cases on appeal.

Opposition to the nation's high-level waste coming to Texas for storage has been expressed in a recent resolution by Andrews County, which could host the facility if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licenses a facility.