

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE (SRS) is a critical part of the U. S. Government's national security infrastructure, having served for more than a half century as a production and research facility for nuclear materials utilized in the country's nuclear security program; and

WHEREAS, SRS is home to the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) that has a successful history of directly supporting large-scale plutonium operations and working with design laboratories on tritium research and development; and

WHEREAS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, through the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), is currently evaluating whether it can manufacture plutonium pits at SRS and if Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) can continue as the Pit Production research and technology development hub. They should also consider if a strategic collaboration between South Carolina and New Mexico could exist for the benefit of our national nuclear deterrent; and

WHEREAS, SRS is perfectly positioned to support many long-term missions such as the Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) and the Plutonium Pit Production mission while safely treating and disposing of the site's legacy waste, a mission that must continue; and

WHEREAS, THE CITIZENS who reside in a two-state region surrounding the Savannah River Site (SRS) have over the years expressed strong support and appreciation for the mission and contributions to national security made by SRS; and

WHEREAS THE CITIZENS of this region, believe the Pit Production mission should be brought to SRS, not as a replacement for the MFFF, but in a complementary role to that facility, and believe SRS is uniquely capable of handling both of those important national security missions; and,

WHEREAS THE CITIZENS of this region, recognize that the location of the Pit Production mission at SRS would increase shipments of plutonium to our community, while potentially providing a disposition pathway for material already stored at SRS; and,

WHEREAS THE CITIZENS of this region, request assurances from the DOE/NNSA that if selected for this Pit Production mission, facilities will be built at SRS and that any waste generated by the operation, or from other missions at SRS, will be safely removed and disposed of at an appropriate facility outside of South Carolina; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Aiken Chamber of Commerce calls upon the DOE/NNSA, the Congress and the Administration to continue consideration of SRS as the location for the Plutonium Pit Production mission and applicable plutonium research and development activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the SRS Community Reuse Organization requests that the DOE/NNSA, the Congress and the Administration move forward with a decision and a funding request to Congress to locate the Plutonium Pit Production mission at SRS.

ADOPTED THIS 15th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2018.


Joshua E. Stewart
Chairman


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