Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Committee.

My name is Nell Kuhnmuench. I work with GCSI and we have the honor and privilege of representing Entergy Palisades Nuclear Plant in South Haven, Michigan.

First, I want to thank Senator Proos for sponsoring this concurrent resolution. We are most appreciative of his leadership and support on this issue.

It is also worth noting that past Michigan Legislatures have passed similar resolutions urging the federal government to meet its responsibilities in the disposal of high level nuclear waste. We appreciate that the sponsor is willing to continue to urge the feds to meet their obligations to the citizens of our state and nation.

In 1982, Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) to establish a national repository to handle the ever-increasing amount of spent nuclear fuel from power plants. This Act authorized the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to enter into contracts with persons who generate or hold title to high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel for the DOE's acceptance of title, transportation, and disposal of the waste or fuel. Under the contracts, the DOE was to build a national nuclear waste repository and begin accepting nuclear waste beginning not later than January 31, 1998.

Across the country electric ratepayers, including Michigan ratepayers, have contributed billions to the Nuclear Waste Fund.

However, more than ten years past the deadline established in the NWPA, the DOE has still not accepted any nuclear waste, and the status of Yucca Mountain, the site chosen for the national repository, is in question.

Entergy strongly supports SCR 7.