

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 430

Sponsors: Senators D. Berger and Jones.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 28, 2011

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
2 COMMISSION TO STUDY THE NEAR- AND LONG-TERM IMPACTS ON NORTH
3 CAROLINA'S ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT, AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES
4 AND ON THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ITS CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY THE
5 IMPACTS ON THAT PORTION OF NORTH CAROLINA THAT IS LOCATED IN OR
6 NEAR THE LOWER ROANOKE RIVER BASIN, WHICH SPANS THE
7 VIRGINIA/NORTH CAROLINA BORDER AND EXTENDS TO THE ALBEMARLE
8 SOUND, WERE THE PROPOSAL TO PROCEED FOR A CANADIAN COMPANY OR
9 ANY OTHER COMPANY TO CONDUCT URANIUM MINING IN VIRGINIA IN THE
10 CENTER OF THE ROANOKE RIVER BASIN.

11 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

12 **SECTION 1.** The Legislative Research Commission may study the impacts on
13 North Carolina were the Virginia General Assembly to submit to pressure to lift the state's
14 current moratorium on uranium mining in Virginia and were the proposal to proceed for a
15 Canadian company or any other company to conduct uranium mining in an area in Virginia that
16 is located in the center of the Roanoke River Basin. The Legislative Research Commission
17 shall specifically consider the impacts on that portion of North Carolina that would be most
18 directly affected, since almost the entire portion of the Roanoke River Basin that is downstream
19 and downwind of the proposed mining site in Virginia is located in North Carolina, spanning
20 the Virginia/North Carolina border and extending to the Albemarle Sound. The Legislative
21 Research Commission shall study the effects of such a uranium mining operation in Virginia on
22 North Carolina in the near term and in the long term, considering that a uranium mining
23 operation could continue operation for 35 years and could produce at least 29 million tons of
24 uranium mill tailings that would be stored on-site, near the Banister River under the proposal.

25 In its study, the Commission may consider all of the following:

- 26 (1) The potential impacts of a uranium mining operation in Virginia on North
27 Carolina's economy, including whether any benefits would inure to North
28 Carolina or would all benefits be confined to Virginia; whether any potential
29 economic burdens would result for North Carolina's tourism industry, our
30 other industries, and our property values; and whether any new industries or
31 development would be reluctant to locate in North Carolina downstream and
32 downwind of the proposed uranium mining site in Virginia.
- 33 (2) The potential impacts of a uranium mining operation in Virginia on North
34 Carolina's environment: our drinking water supplies, our surface waters, our
35 groundwater, and our air quality; especially the potential impacts of the
36 uranium mill tailings and other radioactive material flooding into the



- 1 Roanoke River system and polluting Kerr Lake, Lake Gaston, and the
2 remainder of the lower Roanoke River Basin extending to Albemarle Sound.
- 3 (3) The potential impacts of a uranium mining operation in Virginia on North
4 Carolina's agriculture activities, including farming, forestry, and aquaculture,
5 and on its commercial fishing industry and on recreational fishing and
6 hunting.
- 7 (4) The potential impacts of a uranium mining operation in Virginia on the
8 health, safety, and well-being of North Carolina citizens, especially any
9 health effects associated with the radioactive mill tailings that result from
10 uranium mining.
- 11 (5) Any other issues the Commission considers relevant to this topic.
- 12 **SECTION 2.** The Legislative Research Commission may make an interim report to
13 the 2011 General Assembly when it reconvenes in 2012 and shall make its final report to the
14 2013 General Assembly.
- 15 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.