

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the obligation my friend from Minnesota has. But I am going to continue offering this unanimous consent request. To think that we would not honor Rachel Carson on the anniversary of her 100th birthday—a woman who did as much for the environmental movement in this country as any human being who has ever existed.

Somebody has objected to this? I have heard the reason for the objection is she relied on flawed science to come to her conclusions. I do not know anything about flawed science, but I do know this woman turned the minds of young people to the environment, turned the minds of the academic world to the environment. As a result of her work—as a result of her work—we became conscious of our need to make sure we do things to protect the environment.

So, Mr. President, I am going to continue to move on this. I will tell you, I feel strongly about this, as do Senators—both Democrats and Republicans—that we will have a couple more objections, and then I am going to have a vote to invoke cloture on a motion to proceed to this piece of legislation.

I think it is too bad, first, that the person who objected to this would not have the—I should not say courage, but that person who objects to this should come and do it on their own behalf, not have some other Senator object.

Rachel Carson was a scientist, a writer, and a pioneer in the environmental movement to make this world a better place. This is a simple resolution. It does not cost a penny. All it does is give recognition to someone who certainly deserves that. So I am terribly disappointed that there is an objection to this, but we will do it again at another time.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Mr. President, for 25 years, there has been an effort made to do something that is degrading to the environment and that would jeopardize the health and safety of millions of Americans. It is a project to bury nuclear waste in the deserts of Nevada.

Originally, when this project started, there was a program that would have had three sites that would be selected for places to characterize; that is, to prepare them for the taking of nuclear waste. One was in Washington, one was in Nevada, and one was in Texas. There was a time that came in the 1980s where, because of political maneuvering, Washington and Texas were eliminated, and they thought because Nevada was a place that set off atomic bombs and did other things, it was a big desert wasteland and it didn't matter. But it has mattered. The DOE has done a terribly bad job. They have botched what has taken place out there. The scientific community basically recognizes now it is a very bad idea to try to bury nuclear waste in Nevada.

One reason for that is not only is the science bad, but since 9/11, think of trying to haul 70,000 tons of the most dangerous substance known to man across our highways, our railways, past schools, homes, and businesses. This would be a field day for terrorists. Seventy thousand tons of the most dangerous substance known to man—plutonium—hailed from more than 100 nuclear generating facilities across this country, some more than 3,000 miles to Nevada. It hasn't happened and it will never happen. It will never happen.

So I rise today because some of my colleagues have introduced legislation to salvage this dying project, a project that threatens the health and safety of Americans everywhere. The proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump is not a solution for our nuclear waste problems. The science behind Yucca is corrupted with politics, and it doesn't take into consideration the problem with the transportation of this poison.

The administration and the sponsors of this bill know that Yucca is a flawed and dangerous project and that it cannot move forward without passing legislation designed to circumvent existing laws. Many of the laws are environmental laws. If Yucca was truly scientifically sound and safe, this administration would not need to gut laws that protect our environment, public health, transportation, and security. This legislation exempts the Department of Energy from longstanding Federal laws designed to make Americans safer. This is unacceptable to the Senate. It is unacceptable to our country. It is unacceptable to the Senate.

Senator ENSIGN and I have worked together on this project for many years. That is why we introduced the Federal Accountability for Nuclear Waste Storage Act earlier this year. Under our proposal, the Department of Energy will take ownership of nuclear waste and store it safely at nuclear power plants where it is produced, as is happening as we speak. Calvert Hills, a short distance from here, is a nuclear generating facility, and they store nuclear waste as Senator ENSIGN and I say they should store it.

So I challenge all my colleagues who have concerns about this to sit down with Senator ENSIGN or with me or with both of us, as many have already done, to begin discussing a scientifically sound solution to our nuclear waste problems. Let's take the focus away from this dead-end project and find real solutions for our energy future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I see my friend and colleague from Hawaii who has an amendment which I hope we will be able to consider and accept. I have talked briefly to the Senator from Arizona and others. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator's amendment be in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1186 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1150

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside, and I send my amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA], for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. INOUE, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. CANTWELL, proposes an amendment numbered 1186 to amendment No. 1150.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1186

(Purpose: To exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ EXEMPTION FROM IMMIGRANT VISA LIMIT.

Section 201(b)(1) (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(1)) is amended by inserting after subparagraph (G), as added by section 503 of this Act, the following:

“(H) Aliens who are eligible for a visa under paragraph (1) or (3) of section 203(a) and who have a parent who was naturalized pursuant to section 405 of the Immigration Act of 1990 (8 U.S.C. 1440 note).”.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, my amendment seeks to address and resolve an immigration issue that, while rooted in a set of historical circumstances more than seven decades old, remains unresolved to this day. I am happy to say I am joined by Senator REID, Senator DURBIN, Senator INOUE, Senator BOXER, Senator MURRAY, and Senator CANTWELL. It is an issue of great concern to all American veterans and citizens with an interest in justice and fairness.

In 1941, on the basis of 1934 legislation enacted prior to Philippine independence, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an Executive order through which the President invoked his authority to:

Call and order into the service of the Armed Forces of the United States all of the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

This order drafted more than 200,000 Filipino citizens into the U.S. military, and under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, Filipino soldiers fought alongside American soldiers in the defense of our country.

The enactment of the First Supplemental Surplus Appropriations Rescission Act of 1946 included a rider that conditioned an appropriation of \$200 million on a provision that deemed that service in the Commonwealth Army should not be considered service in the Armed Forces of the United States. The individuals impacted were those members of the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of