REQUESTING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE AND STABILIZE FUNDING FOR WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT CLEANUP

Pursuant to Section 153 of the County Law.

I. WHEREAS, the President's 2013 federal budget request included only $50 million for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), and

II. WHEREAS, the House Appropriations Committee Energy and Water Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2013 also provides only $50 million for the WVDP, and

III. WHEREAS, the $50 million budgeted amount represents a reduction of one-third in funding for the WVDP from fiscal year 2012, and

IV. WHEREAS, with $20 million per year required to keep the facility safe, and $30+ million procurement to build the high level waste storage facility and to purchase storage casks by 2015, a $50 million appropriation will significantly impact the Phase I decommissioning activities, and

V. WHEREAS, if the WVDP receives an annual appropriation of only $50 million throughout Phase 1, it will take approximately 20 years to complete, which is twice as long as the Department of Energy initially projected when they assumed funding would remain $75 million per year, and

VI. WHEREAS, the extension of Phase 1 decommissioning work from 10 years to 20 years will further add an extra $200 million to the total project cost, and

VII. WHEREAS, the federal government must provide adequate funding to continue the cleanup project on schedule and as expeditiously as possible, now, therefore, be it

I. RESOLVED, that the Cattaraugus County Legislature hereby requests the federal government restore WVDP funding to the current $75 million that was anticipated when the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision were issued in 2010, and be it further

II. RESOLVED, that this level of funding must then be stabilized for 10 years to complete all Phase 1 decommissioning work, and be it further

III. RESOLVED, that the County Administrator is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to US Secretary of Energy Chu, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Congressman Reed, Governor Cuomo, State Senator Young, Assembly Member Giglio, Bryan Bower, USDOE Director of the WVDP, and Paul Bembia, NYSERDA Director of the West Valley Site Management Program.