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Rep. Lon Burnam Applauds Radioactive Waste Commission for Delaying Importation Rule Vote

(Austin, Texas) – State Representative Lon Burnam applauded the Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission's decision announced today to postpone consideration of the proposed Export/Import rule, which had been scheduled for May 11th.

"I applaud the Compact Commission for taking the time to carefully consider the nearly 2,400 comments which were submitted by the public and interested stakeholders regarding this rule," said Burnam. "There remain very serious, unresolved issues related to the safe transport of radioactive waste through Texas towns and cities, as well as to the increase in liability to the State of Texas that importing radioactive waste from up to 36 other states would imply for our state budget and for Texas taxpayers."

A new poll released last week by the Sierra Club and pollster Paul Maslin shows that a clear majority of Texans oppose making Texas the nation's dumping ground for so-called "low-level" radioactive waste. According to the poll, 70% of Texans oppose importing waste from outside the party states.

Rep. Burnam has been working closely with his colleagues in the Legislature on this issue for some time. Before the Compact Commission's announcement this morning, Burnam sent a letter to the commissioners signed by 15 state legislators, urging them not to approve the proposed rule at this time.

"The decision to delay is an indication that the commissioners are listening," Burnam said, "and I commend them for that. I hope that they will make the prudent decision to fulfill their statutory charge to ensure 'the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and the environment of the party states' by restricting radioactive waste disposed of in Texas to that generated in Texas and Vermont."