

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS, seventy years ago the United States government hired St. Louis based company Mallinckrodt Chemical Works to purify uranium for use in nuclear weapons during wartimes; and

WHEREAS, from 1946 until 1957, Mallinckrodt Chemical Works transported and dumped the radioactive chemical waste produced from the uranium purification process at Coldwater Creek near the St. Louis airport; and

WHEREAS, some of the radioactive chemical wastes were later trucked from Coldwater Creek to Latty Avenue in Hazelwood for drying and shipping to Colorado for reprocessing; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, some of the radioactive chemical wastes located on Latty Avenue were transported and illegally dumped in the West Lake Landfill located in Bridgeton, next to Earth City, in the Missouri River floodplain; and

WHEREAS, the West Lake Landfill was not designed to store radioactive chemical waste; and

WHEREAS, the radioactive chemical waste has contaminated land and caused erosion of soil from the West Lake Landfill berm; and

WHEREAS, the radioactive chemical waste poses significant health risks to citizens in the area; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the Environmental Protection Agency recognized the significant health risks posed to citizens in the area and placed the West Lake Landfill on the Superfund National Priorities List; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Congress transferred responsibility from the U.S. Department of Energy to the United States Army Corps of Engineers Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program for land remediation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the West Lake Landfill was not transferred to the United States Army Corps of Engineers Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, but remained the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Agency because it had been placed on the Superfund National Priorities List; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a Record of Decision stating that the radioactive chemical wastes were to remain in the landfill, with merely a cover of rocks, construction rubble, and clay, and no liner to protect the wastes from groundwater leaching; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, an underground fire was discovered at the West Lake Landfill, and the fire has remained uncontrolled since that time; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program would be better situated to address the West Lake Landfill remediation efforts given their experience in remediation efforts across St. Louis City and St. Louis County:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Extraordinary Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby request the United States Congress to transfer the authority for the remediation of the West Lake Landfill radioactive chemical wastes from the Environmental Protection Agency to the United States Army Corps of Engineers Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the radioactive chemical wastes be excavated from the Missouri river flood plain and be transported to a licensed radioactive waste facility, away from water and away from people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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