

House Concurrent Resolution No. 26

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3609L.031

1 **Whereas**, Missouri's primary goal for solid waste is to reduce the amount generated
2 and promote programs to reuse, recycle, and compost discarded materials. Based on a need to
3 develop and promote feasible alternatives to the disposal of waste in landfills, one alternative is
4 the development and application of plasma-arc torch technology for solid waste management,
5 with the cooperation and guidance of the Air and Land Protection Division of the Department
6 of Natural Resources; and

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8 **Whereas**, improper processing or disposal of solid waste can cause health and
9 environmental problems, such as ground and surface water pollution, air pollution, and the
10 transmission of disease; and

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12 **Whereas**, solid waste reduction is a positive measure and has been achieved in
13 Missouri by mandates that ban major appliances, whole tires, waste oil, lead batteries, and yard
14 waste from landfills; and

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16 **Whereas**, as long as landfill disposal costs in Missouri remain lower than the cost
17 of recycling, it will continue to be difficult to increase the percentage of waste being diverted
18 from the landfills; and

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20 **Whereas**, plasma-arc torch technology offers an alternative means of managing
21 solid waste that would reduce Missouri's dependence on landfills; and

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23 **Whereas**, plasma-arc torch technology is apparently capable of treating asbestos-

24 containing waste, infectious biomedical waste, and hazardous waste to the extent required to
25 eliminate threats posed by such wastes to human health and the environment; and
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27 **Whereas**, plasma-arc torch technology will reduce the volume of radioactive waste,
28 but the radioactive waste will still exist; and
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30 **Whereas**, permits are required from the Air and Land Protection Division of the
31 Department of Natural Resources before plasma-arc torch technology can be implemented as a
32 solid waste thermal treatment technology; and
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34 **Whereas**, cooperation and guidance from the Air and Land Protection Division of
35 the Department of Natural Resources in the permitting of a plasma-arc torch facility is desired
36 to encourage the development of such a facility in Missouri:
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38 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
39 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
40 concurring therein, hereby urge the Air and Land Protection Division of the Department of
41 Natural Resources to assist any applicant desiring to locate a plasma-arc torch facility for the
42 purpose of disposing of solid waste in Missouri by meeting with prospective applicants to
43 facilitate understanding of the regulatory requirements and processes, educating local
44 governments and the citizens of Missouri on the relative benefits of plasma-arc torch technology
45 compared to current landfill disposal practices, and reviewing all permit applications for such
46 a facility in a timely and expeditious manner; and
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48 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
49 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for James
50 D. Werner, the Director of the Air and Land Protection Division of the Department of Natural
51 Resources.