

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ENGLISH (Sponsor), OTTO, HICKS, MEREDITH, MAYFIELD, BURNS, MIMS, MCCAHERTY, CORNEJO, HURST, MUNTZEL, WALKER, SMITH (85), HIGDON, CONWAY (10), ELLINGER, HAMPTON, COLONA, ENGLUND, MCCANN BEATTY, DUNN, FRAME, HUMMEL, REIBOLDT, RUNIONS, LAFAVER, FUNDERBURK, FITZWATER, BLACK, KELLEY (127), LEARA, MEREDITH, WHITE, NICHOLS, RIZZO, NORR, KIRKTON, ROORDA, MCNEIL, CURTIS, MORGAN, WALTON GRAY, MCKENNA, HARRIS, PACE, PIERSON, KRATKY, BUTLER, BAHR, SCHUPP, MCDONALD, MAY, KOLKMEYER, HANSEN, SHUMAKE, GATSCHENBERGER, PETERS, CARPENTER, ELLINGTON, MITTEN, MONTECILLO, RHOADS, MORRIS, LYNCH, SOMMER AND JONES (110) (Co-sponsors).

4188H.011

2 **WHEREAS**, seventy years ago the United States government hired Mallinckrodt
3 Chemical Works (MCW), near downtown St. Louis, to purify tons of uranium for the production
4 of nuclear weapons; and

5 **WHEREAS**, exposure to radioactive particles and rays released by uranium and related
6 materials increases cancer and other life-shortening diseases and can cause genetic mutations and
7 birth defects; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, from 1946 until 1957, radioactive residues from the MCW uranium
10 processing were trucked to a 22-acre site at the St. Louis Airport on Brown Road (now
11 McDonnell Boulevard) on the banks of Coldwater Creek and were dumped there; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, some of those MCW residues at the airport site were later trucked nearby
14 to Latty Avenue in Hazelwood for drying and shipping to Colorado for reprocessing; and

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16 **WHEREAS** in 1973 contractors who were hired to clean up Latty Avenue, after the
17 drying and shipping operation there had been abandoned, illegally dumped large amounts of the
18 Latty/Airport residues at West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton; and

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20 **WHEREAS** West Lake Landfill was designated a Superfund site under the jurisdiction
21 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency in 1990; and

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23 **WHEREAS** West Lake is in the Missouri River floodplain, and some of the buried
24 radioactive wastes are already in contact with the groundwater that flows into the Missouri River,
25 upstream from drinking water intakes for North Saint Louis County and the City of Saint Louis;
26 and

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28 **WHEREAS** West Lake Landfill is adjacent to the Earth City levee, and since levees can
29 fail, the radioactive materials at West Lake could be released in an uncontrolled manner into the
30 Missouri River; and

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32 **WHEREAS** an underground fire at West Lake has remained uncontrolled since its
33 discovery in October, 2012; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, some landfill fires elsewhere have been known to burn for years, the
36 existing fire or a future fire at West Lake could reach the areas where the radioactive wastes were
37 dumped; and

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39 **WHEREAS** the landfill is located within the airshed of Missouri's largest population
40 center and the West Lake long-lived radioactive wastes will continue releasing radioactive
41 particles and gases into the environment literally for hundreds of thousands of years and beyond;
42 and

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44 **WHEREAS** in 1997 the United States Army Corps of Engineers was assigned
45 responsibility for the cleanup of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program
46 (FUSRAP); and

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48 **WHEREAS** the radioactive wastes at West Lake were part of the same MCW wastes that
49 the Corps has been removing from Saint Louis City and County sites; and

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51 **WHEREAS** the Corps expects that the trained and experienced FUSRAP workers will
52 continue the MCW radioactive waste remediation and closure projects in St. Louis City and
53 County for at least another five years.

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55 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
56 Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
57 concurring therein, hereby request the United States Congress to transfer the responsibility for

58 the radioactive waste cleanup at West Lake Landfill from the EPA Superfund Program to the
59 Corps of Engineers Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program in order to assure and
60 expedite the removal of the radioactive wastes from the landfill to a federally licensed or state
61 permitted radioactive waste disposal facility away from water and away from people.

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63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
64 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
65 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and
66 each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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