

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 71

## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ENGLISH.

5793H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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  
49 that 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, Second 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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