

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BYRNES.

2699H.021

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, between 1942 to 1966, the United States Government produced, in
2 secrecy and without proper protective measures, 300,000 tons of uranium in St. Louis City
3 and St. Charles County as part of the Manhattan Project to produce the atomic bomb; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, in the mid-1950s, the property that was next to Francis Howell High
6 School was transferred to the United States Atomic Energy Commission (AEC); and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, from 1957 to 1966, the AEC operated a uranium processing facility at
9 that site. Impure ore concentrates and some scrap metal were processed at the plant. Other
10 radioactive wastes were disposed of in the quarry in Weldon Spring by the AEC. The
11 operation produced 16,000 tons of uranium annually; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Francis Howell High School was in operation when the United States
14 Government hid its uranium processing plant from the enemy by operating next to the school
15 from 1957 to 1966; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, in the 1990s, despite initial concern from school administration and
18 parents that Francis Howell High School be relocated during cleanup efforts, Francis Howell
19 High School remained in operation while the cleanup was conducted by the United States
20 Department of Energy. Documents detail the public relations efforts the Department of
21 Energy took to ease local concern for fear that relocation efforts would slow down the
22 cleanup and risk the safety of the drinking water for 70,000 residents because the mixed
23 hazardous and radioactive material in the quarry were starting to leach toward wellfields; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the United States Government damaged property and harmed residents
26 of St. Louis, North St. Louis County, and St. Charles County through the improper handling
27 of 2.3 million cubic yards of mixed radioactive contamination during the nation's race to

28 produce the atomic bomb in World War II and from the subsequent push to make more
29 nuclear weapons during the Cold War; and

30

31 **WHEREAS**, the United States Government publicly admitted to exposing atomic
32 bomb workers to radioactive waste without the workers' knowledge or consent and failing to
33 provide atomic bomb workers with proper protective gear; and

34

35 **WHEREAS**, in 2000, the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation
36 Program Act (EEOICPA) was passed, and employees of the Department of Energy have been
37 paid out over \$284,200,840 in EEOICPA benefits in Missouri alone; and

38

39 **WHEREAS**, despite the Department of Energy's data regarding illnesses for atomic
40 bomb workers, residents of Coldwater Creek, St. Louis City, and North St. Louis County and
41 students, faculty, and nearby residents of Francis Howell High School have suffered from the
42 same illnesses and diseases as the atomic bomb workers and have died without regard or
43 accountability; and

44

45 **WHEREAS**, Missourians have been made ill, due to the Manhattan Project, through
46 inhalation from smokestack emissions, exposure to radiation, and contact made with
47 contaminated quarries, creeks, and groundwater; and

48

49 **WHEREAS**, Missourians are reporting diseases and cancers related to chronic
50 exposure to ionizing radiation and exposure to chemical war waste that clearly match diseases
51 documented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Protection
52 Agency, Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, Department of Justice, and
53 Department of Veterans Affairs; and

54

55 **WHEREAS**, radioactive waste was not stored in a sufficiently protective manner at
56 the St. Louis Airport Storage (SLAPS) on Latty Avenue, which resulted in the washing of
57 radioactive material into Coldwater Creek. The creek carried such radioactive material into
58 North St. Louis County, contaminating much of the area around the creek where children
59 play. Heavy rains have caused the creek to flood into the yards and basements of residents in
60 that area; and

61

62 **WHEREAS**, in 1973, approximately 47,000 tons of that same radioactive waste was
63 illegally dumped into the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton; and

64

65 **WHEREAS**, during the 1950s and 1960s, as part of a series of Cold War experiments,
66 the United States Army selected St. Louis as one of the cities singled out for heavy-duty
67 testing during Operation Large Area Coverage. Testing was conducted throughout the Pruitt-
68 Igoe housing project located northwest of downtown St. Louis; and

69

70 **WHEREAS**, the Weldon Spring Site, which is located in St. Charles County and
71 approximately 30 miles west of St. Louis, was the largest explosive production site erected
72 and established by the United States Government in 1941 for the purposes of producing
73 trinitrotoluene (TNT) and dinitrotoluene (DNT). It consisted of two distinct areas, the
74 chemical plant and the quarry. The Army used the quarry for disposal of rubble contaminated
75 with TNT; and

76

77 **WHEREAS**, the Manhattan Project-era atomic programs produced and left behind
78 vast quantities of chemical contaminants that include, but are not limited to, antimony,
79 arsenic, cadmium, calcium hydroxide, chromium, ethylene glycol, friable and nonfriable
80 asbestos-containing material, heavy metals, hydrofluoric acid, magnesium, magnesium
81 fluoride, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, nitrates, nitric acid, nitroaromatics,
82 perchloric acid, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polyaromatic hydrocarbons, potassium
83 hydroxide, selenium, sodium hydroxide, sulfates, tetrachloroethylene, tributyl phosphate, and
84 zinc. Radiological contaminants identified at the site were radium, thorium, and uranium; and

85

86 **WHEREAS**, the aforementioned activities of the United States Government in
87 Missouri have had a deleterious effect on the environment of this state and have resulted in
88 the contamination of the surface water and groundwater of a large geographic area in
89 Missouri with radioactive and other hazardous and toxic contaminants:

90

91 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
92 Representatives of the One Hundred Second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the
93 Senate concurring therein, hereby urge the Missouri Attorney General, the Missouri
94 Department of Natural Resources, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior
95 Services to conduct a joint investigation into whether the State of Missouri and its residents
96 could potentially receive monetary compensation from the United States Government for
97 contamination of the environment in Missouri with radioactive and other hazardous
98 contaminants as a result of the production of military explosive weapons and nuclear
99 weapons, dumping contaminants and equipment, and other activities conducted by the United
100 States Government in Missouri, to the extent that conducting such an investigation will cost

101 the Attorney General, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Health and
102 Senior Services no additional moneys or resources; and

103

104 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Missouri Attorney General report the results
105 of the investigation, if any, to the members of the General Assembly by December 31, 2023;
106 and

107

108 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly requests that the
109 Missouri Congressional delegation expand the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to
110 include Missouri residents exposed to nuclear waste from the Manhattan Project and look for
111 additional funding opportunities for education for medical providers, health screenings for
112 residents exposed to nuclear waste from such project, and medical care necessitated by such
113 exposure; and

114

115 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
116 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
117 Missouri Attorney General, the directors of the Department of Natural Resources and the
118 Department of Health and Senior Services, and each member of Missouri's Congressional
119 delegation.

✓