



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 778		DATE: 2/10/2025
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 11:43 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am in Support of this Bill. These Investigations and Tests by the State Department of Natural Resources are very costly and take a lot of staff, along with experts. We NEED to be submitting reimbursement from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and obtain additional funding from Congress.



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INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 11:55 PM
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I am in Support of this Bill. We NEED to increase the Appropriate for real Hazard Waste Investigations and Testing. We NEED to protect ALL Missourians in the future.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLENE HANSEN		PHONE NUMBER: 913-314-1424	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE: GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING INTERN	
ADDRESS: 300 E. 39TH STREET			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64111
EMAIL: charlene.hansen@sierraclub.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 10:45 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Chair Byrnes, Vice Chair Oehlerking, Ranking Member Young, and members of the Missouri House of Representatives Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, I submit this testimony on behalf of the over 11,000 Sierra Club members throughout Missouri. The Sierra Club Missouri Chapter supports House Bills 778, 290, and 516 which revises the current cap on The Radioactive Waste Investigation Fund. I make the following recommendations and comments for your consideration. The Radioactive Waste Investigation Fund is currently capped at \$150,000 per fiscal year. Removing this barrier would allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to better serve Missourians and ensure action is being taken to mitigate environmental injustices that have plagued Missouri for decades. Radioactive waste has caused a variety of rare cancers and autoimmune disorders in Missourians for decades. I urge the Committee to recommend no cap on transfers from the General Assembly to the Fund. Radioactive waste remediation is essential but expensive work, and there are concerns that limiting the investigation budget not only prevents necessary investigations from taking place, but it also can result in investigative errors. Missourians deserve to live, work, and play in a clean environment free of radioactive waste, and removing the cap on the Radioactive Waste Investigation Fund is an important step towards protecting human and environmental health. Supporting efforts to better identify contaminated sites is important; however, we must also make sure we are taking all appropriate action to remediate these sites once they are discovered. Agencies need clear direction so they can quickly, effectively, and efficiently remediate sites as well as necessary funding to do so. Efforts should be made to create cooperative agreements between DNR and appropriate federal agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers, to establish shared processes for addressing contamination in Missouri. The public should have ample opportunity to engage with DNR and its federal counterparts in shaping these processes and decisions that will affect how the agencies address community concerns.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DANI KAHN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dmgti@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 5:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Dani, I am a St Louis Resident and activist. My time learning from disinvested black communities and awareness of the global supply chain which links weapons production in Missouri to genocide in Palestine. Boeings, General Dynamics, and Israeli Chemicals Limited are local to St Louis, where in poor black communities we must use raised soil beds and water filters because of the pollution from these types of polluters. I support increasing the funding to investigate radioactive waste because in my home our poor communities need this research to know how to keep ourselves from getting cancer and other illnesses related to weapons manufacturing.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 6:24 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 6:23 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/1/2025 11:54 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2025 3:36 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT MCMASTERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: scotty.mcm93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2025 9:35 AM

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Second paragraph states "form" instead of the supposed word "from". Without purposeful grammar this legislation could be challenged effectively in court.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTEN COMMUSO		PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: POLICY SPECIALIST	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: ccommuso@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 4:22 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

February 10, 2025 Chairwoman Tricia Byrnes 201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 6 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Dear Chairwoman Byrnes and Members of the Committee, Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. MCE has been actively involved with the communities impacted by hazardous and radioactive wastes for decades, urging legislators and state and federal agencies to find solutions to the waste problem and the related health issues. This testimony is for informational purposes. Beginning in the early 1940s and continuing through the late 1960s, Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, initially based in St. Louis and later in St. Charles, Missouri, played a crucial role in producing the U.S. government's nuclear weapons arsenal. This production generated millions of tons of radioactive waste, which now contaminates the communities surrounding the two processing plants, as well as interim storage areas and illegal dumping sites. Areas of particular concern include neighborhoods along Coldwater Creek, near the West Lake Landfill—currently experiencing an underground fire in an adjacent section of the site—and the Weldon Spring permanent storage cell and quarry. Residents living near these sites are suffering from rare cancers and autoimmune diseases. We appreciate that the General Assembly is exploring ways to better address the contamination throughout the region. One important resource that community members seek is the ability to test water, sediment, soil, and dust. We are pleased that House Bill 778 aims to improve access to testing by repealing the funding cap in Section 260.558.2 and seeks reimbursement of expenses incurred during radioactive waste cleanup from any federal agency responsible for the site. To best address the needs of the affected communities, MCE asks this Committee to consider combining the proposals in HB 778 with HB 516 and HB 290. We also recommend the MDNR prioritize sampling requests concerning residential drinking water and/or property. For example, Manhattan Project radioactive waste was recently discovered underneath foundations of homes and in backyards. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry recommends sampling includes indoor dust in homes where yards have been cleaned up or require cleanup and sediment or soil remaining in basements that were directly flooded by Coldwater Creek. Sincerely, Christen Commuso Policy Specialist Missouri Coalition for the Environment ccommuso@moenvironment.org (314) 727-0600, ext. 116 • House Bill 516, 103rd General Assembly, 1st Regular Session (2025), <https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB516&year=2025&code=R> • House Bill 290, 103rd General Assembly, 1st Regular Session (2025), <https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB290&year=2025&code=R> • Army Corps finds contamination under Florissant homes, St. Louis Post Dispatch (June 14, 2024), https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/government-politics/army-corps-finds-contamination-under-florissant-homes-but-not-at-levels-that-pose-public-threat/article_a7ee86ba-2909-11ef-bd57-f312305e8aaf.html • ATSDR Evaluation of Coldwater Creek Community Exposures, Key Findings and

Recommendations,https://archive.cdc.gov/www_atsdr_cdc_gov/sites/coldwater_creek/resources.html



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTEN COMMUSO		PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: POLICY SPECIALIST	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: ccommuso@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2025 10:38 PM	

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February 03, 2025 Chairwoman Tricia Byrnes 201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 6 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Dear Chairwoman Byrnes and Members of the Committee, Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. MCE has been actively involved with the communities impacted by hazardous and radioactive wastes for decades, urging legislators and state and federal agencies to find solutions to the waste problem and the related health issues. This testimony is for informational purposes. As you may know, beginning in the early 1940s and continuing through the late 1960s, Mallinckrodt Chemical Works of St. Louis and later St. Charles, Missouri played a pivotal role in the production of the U.S. government's nuclear weapons arsenal. This production generated millions of tons of radioactive waste which now contaminates communities surrounding the two processing plants as well as interim storage areas and illegal dumping grounds in North St. Louis County. Notable areas of concern include neighborhoods along Coldwater Creek, near the West Lake Landfill — which is still experiencing an underground fire in an adjacent area of the site — the Weldon Spring permanent storage cell, and quarry. Residents near these sites are suffering from rare cancers and autoimmune diseases. We appreciate that the General Assembly is considering ways to address the environmental injustice happening in St. Louis and St. Charles. One important resource that community members seek is the ability to test water, sediment, soil, and dust. We are pleased that House Bill 778 aims to improve access to testing by repealing the funding cap and seeks reimbursement of expenses incurred during radioactive waste cleanup from any federal agency responsible for the site. To better address the needs of the affected communities, MCE asks this Committee to consider combining the proposals in HB 778 with HB 516 and HB 290. We also recommend the MDNR prioritize sampling requests concerning residential drinking water and/or property. For example, Manhattan Project radioactive waste was recently discovered underneath foundations of homes and in backyards. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry recommends sampling includes indoor dust in homes where yards have been cleaned up or require cleanup and sediment or soil remaining in basements that were directly flooded by Coldwater Creek. Sincerely, Christen Commuso Policy Specialist Missouri Coalition for the Environment ccommuso@moenvironment.org (314) 727-0600, ext. 116

References: • House Bill 516, 103rd General Assembly, 1st Regular Session (2025), <https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB516&year=2025&code=R> • House Bill 290, 103rd General Assembly, 1st Regular Session (2025), <https://house.mo.gov/Bill.aspx?bill=HB290&year=2025&code=R> • Army Corps finds contamination under Florissant homes, St. Louis Post Dispatch (June 14, 2024), https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/government-politics/army-corps-finds-contamination-under-florissant-homes-but-not-at-levels-that-pose-public-threat/article_a7ee86ba-2909-11ef-bd57-f312305e8aaf.html • ATSDR Evaluation of Coldwater Creek Community Exposures, Key Findings and

Recommendations,https://archive.cdc.gov/www_atsdr_cdc_gov/sites/coldwater_creek/resources.html



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAKE BUXTON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-522-6221	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1101 RIVERSIDE DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: KYRA MOORE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-0303
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 1101 RIVERSIDE DRIVE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PHILLIP MOSER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-873-1251	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS		TITLE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS BRANCH CHIEF	
ADDRESS: 114 JAMES S. MCDONNELL BLVD.			
CITY: HAZELWOOD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63042
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM	
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