

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, between 1942 to 1966, the United States government produced, in secrecy and without proper protective measures, 300,000 tons of uranium in St. Louis City and St. Charles County as part of the Manhattan Project to produce the atomic bomb; and

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

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

Whereas, Francis Howell High School was in operation when the United States government hid its uranium processing plant from the enemy by operating next to the school from 1957 to 1966; and

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

Whereas, the United States government damaged property and harmed residents of St. Louis, North St. Louis County, and St. Charles County through the improper handling of 2.3 million cubic yards of mixed radioactive contamination during the nation's race to produce the atomic bomb in World War II and from the subsequent push to make more nuclear weapons during the Cold War; and

Whereas, the United States government publicly admitted to exposing atomic bomb workers to radioactive waste without the workers' knowledge or consent and failing to provide atomic bomb workers with proper protective gear; and

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

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

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

Whereas, Missourians are reporting diseases and cancers related to chronic exposure to ionizing radiation and exposure to chemical war waste that clearly match diseases documented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency, Agency for

Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, Department of Justice, and Department of Veterans Affairs; and

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

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

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

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

Whereas, the Manhattan Project-era atomic programs produced and left behind vast quantities of chemical contaminants that include, but are not limited to, antimony, arsenic, cadmium, calcium hydroxide, chromium, ethylene

glycol, friable and nonfriable asbestos-containing material, heavy metals, hydrofluoric acid, magnesium, magnesium fluoride, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, nitrates, nitric acid, nitroaromatics, perchloric acid, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polyaromatic hydrocarbons, potassium hydroxide, selenium, sodium hydroxide, sulfates, tetrachloroethylene, tributyl phosphate, and zinc.

Radiological contaminants identified at the site were radium, thorium, and uranium; and

Whereas, the aforementioned activities of the United States government in Missouri have had a deleterious effect on the environment of this state and have resulted in the contamination of the surface water and groundwater of a large geographic area in Missouri with radioactive and other hazardous and toxic contaminants:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Senate of the One Hundred Second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the Missouri Attorney General, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to conduct a joint investigation into whether the State of Missouri and its residents could potentially receive monetary compensation from the United States government for contamination of the environment in Missouri with radioactive and other hazardous contaminants as a result of the production of military explosive weapons and nuclear weapons, dumping contaminants and equipment, and other activities conducted by the United States government in Missouri, to the extent that conducting such an investigation will cost the Attorney General, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Health and Senior Services no additional moneys or resources; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Missouri Attorney General report the results of the investigation, if any, to the members of the General Assembly by December 31, 2023; and

Be It Further Resolved that the General Assembly requests that the Missouri Congressional delegation expand the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to include Missouri residents exposed to nuclear waste from the Manhattan Project and look for additional funding opportunities for education for medical providers, health screenings for residents exposed to nuclear waste from such project, and medical care necessitated by such exposure; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Missouri Attorney General, the directors of the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Health and Senior Services, and each member of Missouri's Congressional delegation.