

1 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.**

2 (By Senator Unger)

3

4 Urging the President of the United States and Congress to protect

5 the nation's water; to establish provisions that will prevent

6 chemical spills from ever happening here or anywhere else

7 again; to direct FEMA to continue to provide water supplies in

8 affected areas in West Virginia; to direct the CDC, ATSDR and

9 EPA to assemble a team to fully analyze the released chemicals

10 and to determine the effects to human health and the

11 environment from exposure to the chemicals from the date of

12 the spill; and to direct the NIH to work with local health

13 officials to diagnose and identify the present and future

14 impacts on health due to exposure to these chemicals.

15 Whereas, An estimated 10,000 gallons of crude

16 4-methylcyclohexane methanol, known as MCMH, a chemical used to

17 remove impurities from coal, and a mixture of polyglycol ethers,

18 known as PPH, spilled into the Elk River in Kanawha County from a

19 one-inch hole in a tank belonging to Freedom Industries; and

20 Whereas, The spill took place a mile and a half upstream from

21 a major intake for West Virginia American Water, a private company

22 that provides municipal water in parts of nine counties, including

23 the city of Charleston, the state capital; and

24 Whereas, Over 300,000 water customers in Boone, Cabell, Clay,

25 Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Putnam and Roane counties were

26 negatively affected by ban on water use from January 9 through

1 January 17, 2014; and

2 Whereas, Individuals, families, employees, businesses and
3 commerce were negatively affected in these counties, which
4 subsequently caused a disruption to the economy of the entire
5 state; and

6 Whereas, the short-term and long-term effects to health from
7 exposure to these chemicals have still not been determined, and
8 accurate data related to the make-up of the chemicals remains
9 unavailable for decision-making; and

10 Whereas, Many West Virginians, even those in areas not
11 affected by the spill, are unsure of the safety of their water; and

12 Whereas, Many West Virginians continue to be afraid to use
13 the water and are incurring additional expenses, such as purchasing
14 bottled water for their homes and businesses; and

15 Whereas, Schools are also burdened by these additional
16 expenses, and the instructional day is disrupted by the change in
17 routine and by the fears of the students; and

18 Whereas, A release of harmful substances can happen in any
19 community around the nation; therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

21 That the Legislature urges the President of the United States
22 and Congress to protect the nation's water; to establish provisions
23 that will prevent chemical spills from ever happening here or
24 anywhere else again; to direct FEMA to continue to provide water
25 supplies in affected areas in West Virginia; to direct the CDC,
26 ATSDR and EPA to assemble a team to fully analyze the released

1 chemicals and to determine the effects to human health and the
2 environment from exposure to the chemicals from the date of the
3 spill; and to direct the NIH to work with local health officials to
4 diagnose and identify the present and future impacts on health due
5 to exposure to these chemicals; and, be it

6 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk of the Senate is hereby
7 directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the President of
8 the United States, members of the West Virginia congressional
9 delegation, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate and the
10 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.