

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.