

1 INTERIM RESOLUTION 2009-002

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3 REQUESTING THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE
4 AND LABOR TO ENCOURAGE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
5 QUALITY TO EXPEDITE THE CLEANUP OF THE CEDAR CHEMICAL CORPORATION
6 SITE IN HELENA-WEST HELENA.

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8 WHEREAS, on June 11, 2009, the Senate Subcommittee on Minority Health
9 held a legislative meeting in Helena-West Helena, Arkansas; and,

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11 WHEREAS, over three hundred (300) residents were present and were
12 provided an opportunity to inform the Subcommittee about the need for health
13 services, the perception of how existing services are being used, the gaps in
14 health services, and their health concerns; and

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16 WHEREAS, residents who addressed the Senate Subcommittee expressed a
17 reoccurring theme centered on the lack of progress made in cleaning up the
18 chemical spill at the Cedar Chemical Corporation and the perceived health
19 problems that the spill has caused and continues to cause the residents of
20 Helena-West Helena; and

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22 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality researched
23 and determined that chemical spills from the site were contaminating the
24 groundwater; and

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26 WHEREAS, the safety of the community and its drinking water is vital to
27 the health and security of the residents; and

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29 WHEREAS, the cleanup of the site will be important for economic
30 development and attracting business to the area; and

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32 WHEREAS, the cleanup of the site is important in making Helena-West
33 Helena a thriving community to live in and to attract jobs,

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35 NOW THEREFORE,

36 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR

1 OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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- That the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality:
- (a) Expedite a decision regarding the cleanup and monitoring of the Cedar Chemical Corporation site;
 - (b) Select the most protective remedy or remedies for the groundwater and the water supply;
 - (c) Report the progress of the cleanup to the community and to the affected citizens;
 - (d) Seek out and hold contributors to the contamination responsible for their actions; and
 - (e) Take any necessary action within their authority to secure the site, maintain the land, and clean up the contamination.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Jack Crumbly
District 16

Senator Percy Malone
District 26

Filed Date: 09/21/2009 By: LMG/rck