

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

SCR 3

4
5 By: Senator J. Taylor
6 By: Representative T. Bradford

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8 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 COMMENDING THE SUCCESSFUL ELIMINATION OF THE CHEMICAL
10 WEAPONS STOCKPILE AT THE PINE BLUFF ARSENAL.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 COMMENDING THE SUCCESSFUL ELIMINATION OF
15 THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILE AT THE
16 PINE BLUFF ARSENAL.

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19 WHEREAS, since World War II, the Pine Bluff Arsenal in Jefferson County
20 has safely stored the second largest cache of chemical weapons in the United
21 States; and

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23 WHEREAS, in 1997, the United States ratified the Chemical Weapons
24 Convention, an international treaty calling for an end to chemical warfare
25 and the destruction of all chemical weapon stockpiles; and

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27 WHEREAS, state environmental permits authorizing construction of the
28 Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility were issued in January of 1999,
29 and the actual destruction of chemical weapons at the Pine Bluff Arsenal
30 began on March 29, 2005; and

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32 WHEREAS, over the next five years, the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent
33 Disposal Facility destroyed more than 110,000 rockets filled with GB or VX
34 nerve agent, more than 9,000 landmines filled with VX nerve agent, and more
35 than 3,700 tons of containers filled with mustard blister agent; and



1 WHEREAS, the storage, handling, and destruction of the chemical weapons
2 stockpile at the Pine Bluff Arsenal was completed on the evening of November
3 12, 2010; and

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5 WHEREAS, during the course of its construction and operations, the Pine
6 Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility won numerous safety awards, compiling
7 more than 14 million work hours without a lost work-day accident, and
8 developed model environmental management procedures adopted by other chemical
9 weapon demilitarization facilities; and

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11 WHEREAS, while the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility was the
12 last high-volume, multimunition demilitarization facility in the nation to
13 begin construction and operation, it was the first to finish elimination of
14 its stockpile, well ahead of the treaty deadline and saving hundreds of
15 millions of tax dollars; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Pine Bluff Arsenal's and the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent
18 Disposal Facility's management and eventual destruction of the second largest
19 U.S. stockpile of some of the most deadly chemicals conceived by mankind was
20 successfully completed without any agent-related exposure to workers or the
21 environment, and serves as a model for demilitarization efforts worldwide,

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23 NOW THEREFORE,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE HOUSE
25 OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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27 THAT the stakeholders engaged since 1999 in the safe elimination of the
28 chemical weapons stockpile at the Pine Bluff Arsenal are praised for
29 successfully collaborating to eliminate the chemical weapons stockpile at the
30 Pine Bluff Arsenal, making the world, the local community, and the State of
31 Arkansas a more humane and safer place to live.

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, the Chief Clerk
34 of the Senate shall mail a copy of this resolution to each of the following
35 officials responsible for the successful completion of the Pine Bluff
36 Chemical Agent Disposal Facility mission:

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- (1) Ms. Teresa Marks, Director, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality;
- (2) Colonel Franz J. Amann, Commander, Pine Bluff Arsenal;
- (3) Lieutenant Colonel Nathaniel Farmer, Commander, Pine Bluff Chemical Activity;
- (4) Mr. Mark Greer, Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Site Project Manager, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency; and
- (5) Mr. Guy Campbell, Project General Manager, URS Corp./Washington Demilitarization Company.