

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 70

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 1996

By Senator BAER

- 1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing the United States Department  
2       of Energy, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the  
3       United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission to take every expedient  
4       action, in conjunction with the officials of this State, to continue to  
5       effectuate the permanent removal of all thorium-contaminated soil from  
6       sites in Maywood Borough, Rochelle Park Township, and Lodi Borough,  
7       New Jersey.
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- 9   **WHEREAS**, The radioactive metallic element thorium, a waste byproduct of  
10       certain manufacturing processes that occurred on-site from 1916 to 1959  
11       at the Maywood Chemical Company in Maywood, New Jersey, was  
12       mixed with other substances and used as fill in several locations in  
13       residential areas of Maywood Borough, and had contaminated some  
14       properties in Rochelle Park Township and in Lodi Borough; and
- 15   **WHEREAS**, Because of the imminent danger this situation posed, the United  
16       States Department of Energy in 1984 began a cleanup that removed  
17       approximately 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from several of the  
18       affected properties, and constructed the Maywood Interim Storage Site to  
19       hold the contaminated soil on the site of the former Maywood Chemical  
20       Company; and
- 21   **WHEREAS**, This contaminated soil is now stored on-site, shielded only by  
22       plastic coverings, which are not adequate to reduce the risk of injury to the  
23       health of the citizens residing in the vicinity of the Maywood Interim  
24       Storage Site and to reduce the risk of harm to the environment; and
- 25   **WHEREAS**, Thorium-contaminated soil still must be removed at the site of the  
26       Maywood Chemical Company, which was purchased in 1959 by the  
27       Stepan Chemical Company, and at several other sites in Maywood,  
28       Rochelle Park, and Lodi that were contaminated by thorium waste from the  
29       Maywood Chemical Company site; and
- 30   **WHEREAS**, This widespread contamination threatens the public health, safety  
31       and welfare of the citizens of these communities; and
- 32   **WHEREAS**, Although the United States Department of Energy has been slow  
33       to develop a plan for the removal of this contaminated soil and the United  
34       States Environmental Protection Agency has not as yet decided on a final  
35       strategy for the removal of the thorium- contaminated soil from these sites,

1 the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recently licensed a  
2 site in the State of Utah to accept this type of waste and the United States  
3 Department of Energy has made a commitment to remove all the  
4 contaminated soil to that site; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Removal of the existing soil piles has begun and that it is imperative  
6 that the removal of the thorium-contaminated soil from all these sites  
7 continue unabated and that the federal government fully fund these  
8 remediations in order to permanently remove all thorium-contaminated soil  
9 from the Maywood, Rochelle Park, and Lodi sites; now, therefore,

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11 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General  
12 Assembly concurring):

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14 1. The United States Department of Energy, the United States  
15 Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Nuclear Regulatory  
16 Commission are respectfully memorialized to take every expedient action, in  
17 conjunction with the officials of this State, to continue to effectuate the  
18 permanent removal of all thorium-contaminated soil from the Maywood  
19 Interim Storage Site and other sites in Maywood Borough, Rochelle Park  
20 Township, and Lodi Borough, New Jersey.

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22 2. A duly authenticated copy of this concurrent resolution, signed by the  
23 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested  
24 by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall  
25 be transmitted to the United States Department of Energy, the United States  
26 Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Nuclear Regulatory  
27 Commission, the presiding officers of the United States Senate and the United  
28 States House of Representatives, and to each of the members of the Congress  
29 of the United States elected from New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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34 This concurrent resolution memorializes the United States Department of  
35 Energy, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the federal  
36 Nuclear Regulatory Commission to take every expedient action, in conjunction  
37 with State officials, to continue to effectuate the permanent removal of all  
38 thorium-contaminated soil from the Maywood Interim Storage Site and other  
39 sites in Maywood, Rochelle Park, and Lodi, New Jersey.

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3 Memorializes U.S. agencies to remove thorium-contaminated soil in

4 Maywood, Rochelle Park, and Lodi, NJ.