

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 864  
By Shaw

A RESOLUTION urging the Department of Environment and Conservation to investigate allegations of environmental racism in the Eno Road community of Dickson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are charged with protecting the citizens of this State, whenever possible, from environmental dangers and ensuring the air, land, and water within the borders of Tennessee are free from hazardous pollutants; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated since 1968 that various companies have deposited toxic chemicals in and around the Eno Road community of Dickson, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it has also been demonstrated that those toxic chemicals polluted the well water supply of the Eno Road community, a community which, historically, has been predominantly African American; and

WHEREAS, incidences of neoplasm have increased in the community since its exposure to this pollution; and

WHEREAS, notification by State and Federal agencies of the danger and risks of exposure to the toxic pollutants was provided predominantly to non-African American residents; and

WHEREAS, the relevant and applicable State agencies have failed to adequately research or resolve any causal relationship between the dumping of toxic substances in the Eno Road community and the increase in incidences of neoplasm; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that, in the interest of promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing measurable

environmental risks, we urge the Department of Environment and Conservation to thoroughly investigate the allegation of environmental racism in the Eno Road community of Dickson, TN.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Environment and Conservation, in consultation with the Department of Health, shall conduct a health screening of the Eno Road community of Dickson, Tennessee to determine whether the residents of color experience a disparate health status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the health screening shall assess the incidence of cancer, birth defects, immunologic diseases, and other health indicators that are related to exposure to toxic hazards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Environment and Conservation, in consultation with the Department of Health, shall present the findings of the study and health screening to the Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee of the Senate and the Conservation and Tourism Committee of the House of Representatives on or before March 1, 2007.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Environment and Conservation shall solicit national experts in the areas of environmental health and environmental justice for assistance in its investigation into this matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly urges the United States Environmental Protection Agency to conduct an investigation of the allegation of environmental racism in the Eno Road community of Dickson, TN.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Phil Bredesen, Governor of Tennessee, the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Commissioner of Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency; the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate; and to each member of Tennessee's delegation to the United States Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.