

RESOLUTION NO. 88

AUTHORIZING THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER TO PURSUE FUNDING REGARDING A DEPLETED URANIUM TESTING PROJECT

Introduced: 3/9/09

By Health Committee, Messrs. Bullock, Aylward, Beston, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Clenahan, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cotrofeld, Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Gordon, Higgins, Horstmyer, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Morse, Nichols, Rahm, Reilly, Scavo, Steck, Timmins, Ward and Ms. Willingham:

WHEREAS, The Albany County Health Commissioner, working in conjunction with NYS Health Department officials, has identified federal funding sources to address continuing health and environmental concerns of former NL Industries employees and nearby residents exposed to depleted uranium, and

WHEREAS, The NL Industries factory, located at 1130 Central Avenue in Colonie, NY emitted over five tons of radioactive depleted uranium aerosols into a residential and commercial area from 1958 to 1982 while manufacturing armor-piercing munitions and other products, and

WHEREAS, The NL plant was permanently closed in 1984 and the property transferred to the federal Department of Energy for remediation of both the site and more than 50 contaminated residential properties, a project completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, except for remaining contaminated groundwater and household dust, and

WHEREAS, Subsequent scientific tests conducted in 2007 discovered depleted uranium contamination of household dust in a few nearby homes and a business in excess of federal site cleanup standards, and detected depleted uranium in urine samples of five former NL workers and four nearby residents more than 20 years after exposure, according to the Community Concerned About NL Industries (CCNL), and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Legislature supports CCNL's efforts to secure federal funding for further testing of former NL employees and nearby residents and testing and cleanup of contaminated household dust in homes surrounding the former factory site, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Albany County Legislature authorizes the County Health Commissioner to join with the New York State Department of Health in pursuit of funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to address the health and environmental concerns of those exposed to depleted uranium, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 3/9/09