



HR0412

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is committed to maintaining  
3 stringent standards for chemical and nuclear safety, and for  
4 the protection of workers, residents, and the environment; and

5           WHEREAS, The Honeywell International, Inc. Metropolis  
6 Works specialty chemicals facility in Metropolis is the only  
7 uranium conversion facility in the United States, and the only  
8 domestic producer of uranium hexafluoride, a key component in  
9 nuclear fuel; and

10           WHEREAS, Environmental Protection Agency Enforcement and  
11 Compliance records for the Honeywell International, Inc. site  
12 in Metropolis reveal non-compliance with the Clean Water Act  
13 during 10 of the last 12 quarters, non-compliance with the  
14 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act during 12 of the last 12  
15 quarters, and non-compliance with the Clean Air Act during 6 of  
16 the last 12 quarters; and

17           WHEREAS, Honeywell International, Inc. pleaded guilty in  
18 federal district court on March 11, 2011 to one felony count of  
19 knowingly storing hazardous and radioactive waste in  
20 Metropolis without a permit and in violation of the Resource  
21 Conservation and Recovery Act and was sentenced to a criminal  
22 fine of \$11.8 million and five years of probation; and

1           WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency  
2           has stated that "Honeywell must account for its knowing  
3           violation of a federal law that protects the public from  
4           exposure to hazardous waste containing radioactive material,"  
5           and that the company's illegal actions "put employees at risk  
6           of exposure to radioactive and hazardous materials"; and

7           WHEREAS, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan reported  
8           on March 14, 2011 that Honeywell International, Inc. has agreed  
9           to pay a civil penalty of \$690,000 to resolve a separate  
10          lawsuit stemming from its illegal storage of thousands of drums  
11          of radioactive and hazardous waste near Route 45 in Metropolis;  
12          and

13          WHEREAS, Honeywell International, Inc. reported on 2010  
14          Tier Two forms that its specialty chemicals facility in  
15          Metropolis housed a daily average of 66,591,684 pounds of  
16          substances classified by the company as immediate health  
17          hazards, and 65,859,160 pounds of substances classified by the  
18          company as chronic health hazards in the event of exposure; and

19          WHEREAS, These substances include daily averages of  
20          33,035,000 pounds of radioactive uranium ore and radioactive  
21          uranium chemical compounds, as well as 2,094,000 pounds of  
22          hydrogen fluoride, a chemical regulated as an Extremely

1 Hazardous Substance under the Emergency Planning and Community  
2 Right-to-Know Act; and

3 WHEREAS, Honeywell International, Inc. has estimated that  
4 an accidental release of even a small portion of the hydrogen  
5 fluoride stored at the site could catastrophically impact up to  
6 128,000 residents within a 25-mile radius of the Metropolis  
7 Works site; and

8 WHEREAS, On June 28, 2010, Honeywell International, Inc.  
9 locked out the experienced workforce that had been responsible  
10 for handling these hazardous chemicals, despite workers  
11 offering to remain on the job as contract negotiations  
12 continued, and in September of 2010 hired temporary replacement  
13 workers to resume operation of its uranium conversion facility;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission mandated  
16 that these temporary replacement workers be evaluated prior to  
17 being allowed to operate the plant, and required that Honeywell  
18 International, Inc. "ensure no coaching occurs during the  
19 On-the-Job Evaluations (OJE)" and maintain "strict control" of  
20 "written examinations, related answer keys, examination banks,  
21 Job Performance Measures, and all other examination  
22 instruments"; and

1           WHEREAS, Honeywell International, Inc. was cited by the  
2 United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on November  
3 10, 2010 for violating the rule that expressly forbade coaching  
4 when it, among other instances, "showed the candidate the  
5 locations of several components when the candidate was unable  
6 to locate them" and "helped the candidate follow the procedure  
7 when the candidate became confused"; and

8           WHEREAS, Honeywell International, Inc. was cited by the NRC  
9 for additional violations when it "failed to maintain strict  
10 control over examination materials," allowed candidates "to  
11 hear and listen to oral evaluation questions prior to their own  
12 examination," and further permitted "a number of operator  
13 candidates to observe another operator as he performed his OJE,  
14 thus compromising the task performance portion of the OJE"; and

15           WHEREAS, Honeywell International, Inc. has admitted to at  
16 least one release at the Metropolis site since its temporary  
17 replacement workers began operating the facility, specifically  
18 a release of hydrogen fluoride on December 22, 2010, which  
19 lasted approximately two hours and triggered emergency sirens  
20 and emergency mitigation systems; and

21           WHEREAS, The workers presently locked out by Honeywell  
22 International, Inc. possess numerous years of experience and  
23 training inside the Metropolis Works facility; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3           we recognize the importance of utilizing experienced and highly  
4           trained workers for the operation of chemical and nuclear  
5           facilities that use, store, and produce radioactive or  
6           hazardous substances; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That we condemn the actions of Honeywell  
8           International, Inc. with regard to the lockout of experienced  
9           workers at the Metropolis Works specialty chemicals facility in  
10          Metropolis and calls on Honeywell to promptly end its lockout;  
11          and be it further

12          RESOLVED, That we condemn the actions of Honeywell  
13          International, Inc. with regard to repeated instances of  
14          non-compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery  
15          Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act; and be it  
16          further

17          RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. Environmental Protection  
18          Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and all relevant  
19          regulatory bodies to define clear jurisdiction over the  
20          Metropolis Works facility, and to conduct comprehensive and  
21          ongoing investigations, including full multi-media  
22          inspections, to ensure that the facility is operated safely and

1 in compliance with federal regulations; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
3 delivered to United States President Barack Obama, members of  
4 the Illinois Congressional Delegation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory  
5 Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko, U.S. EPA Administrator  
6 Lisa Jackson, Honeywell International, Inc. CEO David Cote, and  
7 Honeywell Metropolis Works Plant Manager Larry Smith.