

House Concurrent Resolution No. 95

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS.

6219H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, City of St. Louis is facing serious problems; and

2
3 **WHEREAS**, the noncitizens of City of St. Louis pay an earnings tax without
4 representation in the city government; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the population of the City of St. Louis is dwindling while the population
7 of comparable cities is growing; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, approximately one third of the budget in the City of St. Louis comes from
10 earnings tax; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, many comparable cities do not levy a earnings tax and are able to fund
13 themselves; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, by expanding the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, the City of St.
16 Louis financially overextended itself while effectively eradicating the city of Kinloch; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, the government and public services of the City of St. Louis could not
19 function without the earnings tax, and the earnings tax is an unsustainable source of funding; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the City of St. Louis appears to lack a strategic plan to increase its
22 population and has an absence of leadership; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the City of St. Louis is not dedicated to the minority population in the
25 North City portion of St. Louis and habitually takes actions against these citizens' interests
26 without these citizens' input or approval; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, North City has a poverty rate of approximately thirty-five percent and an
29 unemployment rate of approximately twenty percent; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
32 recognized these problems and designated an area encompassing much of North City and
33 northern St. Louis County as a Promise Zone; and

34

35 **WHEREAS**, Promise Zones are communities with high poverty where the federal
36 government partners with local leaders to increase economic activity, improve educational
37 opportunities, leverage private investment, reduce violent crime, and enhance public health; and
38

39 **WHEREAS**, as a Promise Zone, St. Louis will receive priority access to federal
40 investments to further its strategic plans and federal staff to help it implement its goals; and
41

42 **WHEREAS**, the City of St. Louis can greatly benefit from the projects of a Promise
43 Zone, become a more appealing place to live, and possibly increase its population as a result:
44

45 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
46 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
47 concurring therein, hereby urge the City of St. Louis to develop a strategy to wean itself off the
48 earnings tax and to develop a plan to invest in North City utilizing the tools available through
49 the Promise Zone designation; and
50

51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
52 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
53 mayor of the City of St. Louis and the City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen.

✓