

House Concurrent Resolution No. 28

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES LYNCH (Sponsor), GANNON, SOLON, SHUMAKE, HANSEN,
NETH, BAHR, PIKE AND MCCAHERTY (Co-sponsors).

2031L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, the Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment Programmatic Environmental
3 Assessment (PEA) includes a plan to reduce the Army's end strength and realign its forces over
4 the coming years which will affect 21 Army installations across the country, including Fort
5 Leonard Wood in Missouri; and

6 **WHEREAS**, these Army reductions and realignments that may occur from Fiscal Year
7 2013-2020 will result in significant impacts to a variety of economic measures in communities
8 neighboring these 21 installations; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, the PEA specifically references the impact of force structure reductions at
11 Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, including reduction in employment, income, regional
12 population, and sales; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, Fort Leonard Wood currently has a permanent workforce of approximately
15 9,500 soldiers and Army civilians, not including trainees, students, family members, other
16 service members, contractors, and non-full time employees; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, the Programmatic Environmental Assessment proposes a loss of up to
19 3,900 of these soldiers and Army civilians, which is a loss of 41% of permanent staff and an
20 added loss of 450 direct and 504 indirect jobs across the community; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, the economic impact across the three-county region, as defined in the study,
23 would be devastating. The study shows a loss of 8% in annual sales, 6.75% in tax revenue,
24 11.21% in employment, and 7.5% in population; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, as the study notes, only a portion of the potential loss is considered in the
27 study. The study states that there may also be a loss of 10% of training load and an unknown
28 percentage of other services not factored into the analysis. With this additional loss, the overall
29 loss would be catastrophic for the region; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, the majority of the impact would be felt in Pulaski County, Missouri; and
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33 **WHEREAS**, the study projects a loss of almost 3,700 K-12 school students in the region,
34 with a majority of the loss in the Waynesville School District that provides K-12 schools on Fort
35 Leonard Wood and the immediate vicinity; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, Waynesville School District has approximately 6,000 students enrolled
38 today. Assuming 85% of the loss in that school district, the district would realize a 52% loss of
39 its current enrollment; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, to continue to provide the highest level of quality education, the
42 Waynesville School District has recently invested in several new facilities, a high school,
43 elementary school, and career center. These facilities are heavily dependent on continuing
44 federal impact aid for construction bond funding. Based on the projected level of impact aid
45 loss, the district would be placed in serious financial jeopardy; and

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47 **WHEREAS**, the impact of these losses would be felt not only in the communities
48 surrounding Fort Leonard Wood, but the entire State of Missouri. The full impact of the state
49 if the troop reduction goes forward has yet to be determined, but it is certain it would be
50 significant, because Fort Leonard Wood is one of the largest employers in the State of Missouri;
51 and

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53 **WHEREAS**: Fort Leonard Wood is an important asset for the Army and the Department
54 of Defense through pioneering the concepts of multiple schools at one location, and multi-service
55 training and education; and

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57 **WHEREAS**, the Army has made a multi-billion dollar investment in new infrastructure
58 at the installation and its operating costs are among the lowest in the country. Fort Leonard
59 Wood should be considered for additional mission growths, not reductions; and

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61 **WHEREAS**, final decisions will be made over the next several years. The projected
62 \$233 million in economic loss and 6,441 jobs affected as a result of the proposed Army
63 reductions will have a significant impact to the State of Missouri and catastrophic to the region:

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65 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
66 Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
67 concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the Department of Defense to reconsider the reduction
68 and realignment of Army forces at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and continue full operation at
69 this installation, which has one of the lowest installation operating costs in the county; and

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71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
72 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
73 Secretary of the United States Department of Defense, the United States Army Environment
74 Command, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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