



SR0632

LRB103 31419 MST 59100 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, Article 11 SECTION 1 of the Illinois State
3 Constitution states that it is the public policy of the State
4 and the duty of each person to provide and maintain a healthful
5 environment for the benefit of this and future generations;
6 and

7

WHEREAS, SECTION 2 states that each person has the right
8 to a healthful environment and that each person may enforce
9 this right against any party, governmental or private, through
10 appropriate legal proceedings subject to reasonable limitation
11 and regulation as the General Assembly may provide by the law;
12 and

13

WHEREAS, The General Assembly is charged by law with
14 providing for the implementation and enforcement of this
15 public policy; and

16

WHEREAS, The Illinois 30 by 30 Task Force discussed the
17 application of the 30 by 30 concept in Illinois and considered
18 how agriculture is a predominate land use in the state (75% of
19 the State's land area); and

20

WHEREAS, The Task Force determined that part of a
21 successful strategy would include permanent dedication through

1 fee simple and easement acquisition, as well as voluntary
2 conservation practices; and

3 WHEREAS, Currently, 4.2% of the total land area in
4 Illinois is formally protected for conservation purposes
5 through public and private mechanisms; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the past 10 years, the Illinois Department
7 of Natural Resources has acquired approximately 20,000 acres
8 in fee simple acquisitions; and

9 WHEREAS, The Forestry Development Act provides a reduced
10 property tax rate to private forest owners that enter into
11 agreements to manage their timber through timber stand
12 improvement, to control exotic species, or for wildlife
13 habitat development; and

14 WHEREAS, The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission has two
15 programs that offer the highest level of legal protection for
16 natural lands in Illinois, the Dedicated Nature Preserve and
17 the Registered Land and Water Reserve; and

18 WHEREAS, The Conservation and Fall Covers for Spring
19 Savings are two programs that support conservation practices
20 on agricultural land; and

1 WHEREAS, More than 1.5 million acres are currently under
2 contract for three programs in Illinois, which include the
3 U.S. Department of Agriculture, such as the Environmental
4 Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship
5 Program, and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Measuring of conserved lands would help the State
8 to know the adequate amount of land conserved, their overall
9 percentages, the breakdown of geographical area, and the
10 discussion of access to conserved lands; and

11 WHEREAS, The amount of work needed for a successful
12 outcome would best be accomplished by collaboration with all
13 coordinating State agencies; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition, conservation capacity can be built
15 by increasing conservation agency staffing; and

16 WHEREAS, Aligning programs with local priorities and
17 values provides feedback and actively engages local
18 communities in preparation for new programs and open spaces,
19 and the participation of students on this project is important
20 for the coordination between public and conservation efforts;
21 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the creation of
3 a coordinating council under the Illinois Lieutenant
4 Governor's office to bring together a relevant staff of
5 agencies and non-governmental organizations to develop a
6 strategy for implementation of the 30 by 30 concept; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the students of Pontiac Township High School.