

1 providing for the implementation and enforcement of this
2 public policy; and

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

7 WHEREAS, The Task Force determined that part of a
8 successful strategy would include dedication through fee
9 simple and easement acquisition, as well as voluntary
10 conservation practices; and

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, The Conservation and Fall Covers for Spring
2 Savings are two programs that support conservation practices
3 on agricultural land; and

4 WHEREAS, More than 1.5 million acres are currently under
5 contract for three programs in Illinois through the Department
6 of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture,
7 the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation
8 Stewardship Program, and the Regional Conservation Partnership
9 Program; and

10 WHEREAS, The health of Illinois' ecosystems is threatened
11 by a number of issues, including habitat degradation and loss,
12 hydrological modifications, spread of exotic species, and
13 economic constraints; and

14 WHEREAS, Over 90% of land in Illinois is privately owned,
15 making conservation partnerships in Illinois an imperative;
16 roughly 87,000 acres of natural lands, both private and
17 public, are preserved in the Illinois Nature Preserves
18 Commission's Nature Preserve and Land and Water Reserve land
19 protection programs; and

20 WHEREAS, Information collected from the measuring of
21 conserved lands would help the State to determine the adequate
22 amount of land that should be conserved, to define the overall

1 percentages and the breakdown by geographical area, and to
2 focus the discussion of access to conserved lands; and

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

6 WHEREAS, In addition, conservation capacity can be built
7 by increasing conservation agency staffing; and

8 WHEREAS, The participation of students on this project is
9 important for the coordination between public and conservation
10 efforts; and

11 WHEREAS, Aligning programs with local priorities and
12 values provides feedback and actively engages local
13 communities in preparation for new programs and open space;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the creation of
17 a coordinating council under the Illinois Department of
18 Natural Resources and the Illinois Department of Agriculture;
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the coordinating council should meet at a

1 minimum of two times to bring together a relevant staff of
2 agencies, students of Pontiac Township High School, and
3 non-governmental organizations, including the largest
4 statewide association representing agriculture, to develop a
5 strategy for implementation of 30 by 30 Task Force
6 recommendations; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
8 delivered to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the
9 Illinois Department of Agriculture, and Pontiac Township High
10 School."