



HR0920

LRB100 21236 MST 37423 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The 2014 Federal Farm Bill boasted a strong
3 Conservation Title, and the Farm Bill is up for reauthorization
4 in 2018; and

5 WHEREAS, Provisions from the 2014 Farm Bill have helped
6 support programs improving soil, water, fish, and wildlife
7 conservation on farms, ranches, forests, and private lands
8 through the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, These programs include the Conservation Reserve
10 Program (CRP), the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
11 (ACEP), and the voluntary public access and habitat incentive
12 program (VPA-HIC), which have all been key to managing and
13 increasing the natural resources of the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, 2014 Farm Bill provisions have specifically
15 benefitted Illinois; in 2017, a total of 895,410 acres,
16 representing 43,802 farms in Illinois, were enrolled in CRP,
17 with an investment of over \$161 million; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2016, Illinois landowners held over \$4 million
19 in ACEP agreements; and

20 WHEREAS, Eight Regional Conservation Partnership Programs

1 (RCPPs) invested nearly \$27 million in the State from 2014 to
2 2017, leading to wildlife habitat conservation, improved
3 pollinator habitats, and increased forest health; and

4 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Natural Resources
5 received over \$2.2 million in VPA-HIP grants in 2014 and 2015,
6 which it used to expand urban youth opportunities and increase
7 public access to areas for hunting, fishing, and outdoor
8 recreation throughout the State; this in turn helps protect the
9 hunting heritage of Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois depends on the Farm Bill Conservation
11 Title to help provide clean water, healthy soils, abundant
12 wildlife and wildlife habitats, flood control, and outdoor
13 recreation opportunities; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
16 urge the U.S. Congress to include a strong Conservation Title
17 in the 2018 Farm Bill, and ask the Illinois Congressional
18 Delegation to pay special attention to this matter; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
21 delivered to President Donald Trump, U.S. Senate Majority
22 Leader Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck

1 Schumer, U.S. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, U.S. House of
2 Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and all members
3 of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.