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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Housing is our State's most important social and economic infrastructure; nearly one in three Illinois families struggles with housing costs; over half of our State's renters need an affordable home, including over half of seniors who rent their homes; we face a critical shortage of an estimated 23,000 supportive housing units for our most vulnerable populations, those who are veterans, disabled, and/or at risk of homelessness; and

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WHEREAS, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the right to housing as a human right; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois cannot thrive if young adults cannot afford housing and leave Illinois, if businesses leave for states with lower housing costs, and when families struggle to keep a roof over their heads; and

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WHEREAS, The 2009 capital budget set a precedent for investing in housing as infrastructure through an allocation of approximately \$145 million for affordable housing; nearly \$70 million of these funds were used to create 694 affordable rental homes across the State, leveraging an additional \$82.5 million in public and private resources; capital budget dollars allocated towards affordable housing were highly leveraged

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1 with private and public money and were extremely impactful in
2 creating jobs, creating housing, broadening the tax base, and
3 creating new economic activity; and

4 WHEREAS, Communities across our great State still struggle
5 to provide an adequate supply of affordable homes to our
6 residents; and

7 WHEREAS, Allocating \$1 billion towards affordable housing
8 in the State's next capital budget provides us with an
9 opportunity to make a sizable impact on the housing needs of
10 our communities; and

11 WHEREAS, This investment in affordable housing would allow
12 the development of homes meeting a wide range of needs,
13 including, but not limited to, affordable homes for working
14 families and seniors, supportive housing for people
15 experiencing homelessness, accessible housing for people with
16 disabilities, and affordable memory care homes for people with
17 Alzheimer's disease; homeownership could be supported by
18 rehabbing vacant and abandoned properties; and

19 WHEREAS, This investment would be used across the State in
20 urban, suburban, and rural communities to rebuild
21 neighborhoods, create new jobs, attract new investment, and
22 broaden the property tax base; and

1 WHEREAS, With \$1 billion in capital budget funds we could
2 build 10,000 affordable rental homes for working families,
3 seniors, veterans, and people who need supportive housing,
4 create 16,000 jobs in the first year alone, and generate \$755
5 million in taxes and other revenue for local governments and
6 \$3.9 billion in local income for businesses and workers over
7 the course of 15 years; and

8 WHEREAS, This investment would provide resources to meet
9 the goals of the Comprehensive Housing Planning Act (310 ILCS
10 110), which is to maintain the economic health of our
11 communities by requiring a comprehensive and unified policy for
12 the allocation of resources for affordable housing and
13 supportive services for historically underserved populations
14 throughout the State; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize one of the
17 most urgently required, realistic, and important ways to
18 rebuild our State means investing in where our families live;
19 increasing Illinois' stock of affordable housing would give
20 people more reasons to stay here and entice employers and
21 families to relocate here, save money, build wealth, and
22 achieve a middle-class standard of living; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we urge significant funding for affordable
2 housing be included in any new capital spending plan; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
5 delivered to the offices of the Governor, the Capital
6 Development Board, the Housing Development Authority, the
7 Department of Human Services, the Department of
8 Transportation, the Department on Aging, the Department of
9 Children and Family Services, the Department of Corrections,
10 the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the
11 Department of Healthcare and Family Services, and the
12 Department of Veterans' Affairs.