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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Henry Lueders Henderson, who passed away on November 5, 2018 at the age of 66; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Henderson was born in Granite City on May 5, 1952; he grew up in a heavily industrialized area of the town, where he and his friends found they could light on fire the water that seeped into basements after storms; that experience, along with many days spent at the Field Museum and a summer at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, pushed him toward a career of protecting the environment and public health; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Henderson earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and theology from Kenyon College in 1974; he then studied in England, where he earned a master's degree in philosophy from Oxford University; in 1976, he moved to Chicago and completed coursework for a doctorate at the University of Chicago; after finding himself drawn more to politics and law, he moved to St. Louis and earned a law degree at Washington University in 1982; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Henderson worked in the City of Chicago's law department, where he focused on environmental issues; he

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1 served as the staff director of Mayor Harold Washington's
2 Shoreline Protection Commission in the late 1980s; after taking
3 office in 1989, former Mayor Richard M. Daley selected him to
4 be the first environment Commissioner for the City of Chicago;
5 in this role, he helped launch the city's blue-bag recycling
6 program, helped shut down illegal garbage dumps, and oversaw
7 the Chicago Brownfields Initiative, an effort to clean up
8 abandoned industrial sites; he also helped lead the fight to
9 preserve the North Park Village Nature Center and proposed
10 stiffer fines and jail time for companies caught dumping
11 construction waste in residential areas; and

12 WHEREAS, According to Richard M. Daley, Henry Henderson was
13 a "great leader during a vital time in Chicago's history"; he
14 also noted, "Henry proved to be instrumental in the
15 environmental movement here, long before other cities were
16 acknowledging the need for such initiatives"; and

17 WHEREAS, After leaving the City's Department of the
18 Environment in 1998, Henry Henderson joined the Great Cities
19 Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago as a senior
20 fellow in an environmentally-oriented research and
21 administrative post; he left UIC to start his own firm, Policy
22 Solutions Ltd., and later served as an assistant attorney
23 general for the State of Illinois, again focusing on the
24 environment; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2007, Henry Henderson was tapped to serve as
2 the director for the newly-opened Midwest office of the Natural
3 Resources Defense Council, a New York City-based international
4 nonprofit environmental advocacy group; according to Mayor
5 Rahm Emanuel, in that role Henderson's time "was spent holding
6 polluters, governments, and City Hall accountable"; Mayor
7 Emanuel also noted that "Chicagoans and all Midwesterners owe a
8 debt of gratitude to Henry for his leadership and service"; and

9 WHEREAS, United States Senator Dick Durbin stated,
10 "Without Henry and his dogged work at NRDC, we would have never
11 been as successful at addressing manganese pollution in
12 Southeast Chicago or taking on contamination issues from BP
13 Whiting"; he also noted, "His dedication to leaving this planet
14 better and cleaner for the next generation will be long
15 remembered"; and

16 WHEREAS, Henry Henderson created the Chicago Greencorps, a
17 job-training program that turned vacant lots into community
18 gardens and built planter medians around the City; he felt
19 strongly that to build a sustainable community, the most
20 vulnerable populations had to be better served; and

21 WHEREAS, Henry Henderson will be remembered as an architect
22 of Illinois's Future Energy Jobs Act, one of the most

1 aggressive state-led climate efforts in the nation, and as one
2 of the loudest and most persistent voices calling for the
3 resuscitation of the Chicago River; under his leadership, NRDC
4 initiated a lawsuit that forced water regulators to stop
5 dumping water rife with human waste into the river; this
6 cleanup effort precipitated the development of the Chicago
7 Riverwalk; and

8 WHEREAS, Henry Henderson is survived by his wife,
9 Jacqueline; his sons, James and Ben; and his sister, Ann Tonks;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 Henry Lueders Henderson and extend our sincere condolences to
14 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Henry Henderson as an expression of
18 our deepest sympathy.