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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, According to a 2014 study, five of the 20 most
3 congested stretches of road in the United States are in the
4 Chicago area; drivers in the northeastern Illinois-northwest
5 Indiana region spent on average, 61 extra hours behind the
6 wheel because of gridlock, construction zones, and collisions;
7 that is the equivalent to a week and a half of work; the time
8 wasted because traffic flow lagged well below speed limits
9 during much of the day, was 6 hours more per driver;
10 nationally, delays due to traffic congestion kept drivers and
11 their passengers in cars for almost seven billion extra hours
12 and more than three billion gallons of fuel were wasted; and

13 WHEREAS, Specific to the greater Chicago area, the study
14 measured the total travel delay to 302.6 million hours
15 affecting 3.4 million commuters in 2014; the cost of truck
16 congestion, \$1.5 billion in 2014, accounted for approximately
17 five percent of the \$28 billion nationally in the value of
18 operating time and wasted fuel for commercial trucks stuck in
19 traffic and adding to congestion; a driver in the Chicago
20 region who needs to arrive on time at a destination 20 minutes
21 away in light traffic, should instead budget a full hour during
22 peak travel times; and

23 WHEREAS, Universities across the country are collaborating

1 with tech companies and state government entities to develop
2 wireless technology to reduce traffic congestion; in South
3 Carolina alone, Clemson University, Benedict College, The
4 Citadel, South Carolina State University, and the University of
5 South Carolina, are developing wireless technology for traffic
6 signals in order to make it possible to eliminate car accidents
7 and travel on busy roads without stopping for traffic lights by
8 controlling traffic signals in real-time based on existing and
9 predicted vehicular and pedestrian demand; researchers at MIT,
10 using models developed in Singapore, were able to build
11 simulations gauging driver locations with radio transmitters
12 mounted on gantries scattered around a city, like the gantries
13 used in many wireless toll systems, to route drivers around
14 congested roadways by charging a toll for entering congested
15 roadways, thereby providing an incentive to avoid it and choose
16 and alternate route; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
19 urge Illinois colleges and universities, in cooperation with
20 tech companies and government entities, to work together to
21 develop wireless technology designed to work towards
22 eliminating traffic congestion so that Illinois can be on the
23 forefront in the elimination of traffic congestion and to make
24 Illinois roads the safest in the nation, to reduce travel time,
25 and to save money on wasted fuel.