



HR0181

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Many members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives have risen to condemn Donald Trump's proposed
4 construction of a wall between the United States and Mexico; a
5 wall will hurt the long-standing relationship between the U.S.
6 and Mexico, hurt the country and the State of Illinois
7 economically, and wreak havoc on the environment; and

8 WHEREAS, A wall will be a political and economic disaster;
9 Mexico is one of America's largest trading partners; in 2015,
10 the United States imported \$295 billion in products from
11 Mexico, including cars and machinery; Mexico is also the second
12 largest supplier of agriculture, including fruits and
13 vegetables, for the U.S.; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Department of Commerce
15 and Economic Opportunity, in 2015, Illinois imported more than
16 \$13 billion from Mexico; Mexico is the third largest import
17 market for the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, A wall will come with an enormous cost; it is
19 estimated a wall would cost between \$15-25 billion, paid for by
20 a 20% tax on goods coming from Mexico; this will fall upon the
21 American consumer; and

1 WHEREAS, A wall poses an ecological threat; a 2016 report
2 based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data explained that its
3 construction could have a negative impact on 111 endangered
4 species, 108 species of migratory birds, four wildlife refuges
5 and fish hatcheries, and an unknown number of protected
6 wetlands; and

7 WHEREAS, The climate impacts of a massive concrete wall
8 running along the border of the United States and Mexico begin
9 with the source of the materials; the production of cement is a
10 major source of greenhouse gas emissions; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the Center for Biological Diversity,
12 billions of dollars have already been spent on existing border
13 fencing, with little to no environmental oversight; this has
14 led to erosion and flooding in border communities as well as a
15 roadblock for the natural movement of wildlife across the
16 border; and

17 WHEREAS, The negative human impact of a wall is
18 incalculable and goes against the very values upon which this
19 nation of immigrants is built; children have written letters to
20 representatives of the General Assembly about how the idea of a
21 wall is a great concern for families that may be divided by a
22 wall when they just want to have better lives; the idea of a
23 wall is causing a great deal of stress for many children; and

1 WHEREAS, The Pew Research Center shows emerging evidence
2 that illegal immigration flows have fallen to their lowest
3 level in at least two decades; the nation's population of
4 illegal immigrants has decreased by about one million since
5 2007; and

6 WHEREAS, Walls do not work; walls such as the one between
7 East and West Germany have shown building walls to keep people
8 out does not work; in the words of President Reagan regarding
9 the Berlin wall, such a wall, "...cannot withstand faith. It
10 cannot withstand truth. The wall cannot withstand freedom.";
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
14 urge President Donald Trump to cease his plans to build a wall
15 on the southern border between the United States and Mexico;
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to refuse any appropriation
18 to fund the building of a wall along the southern border; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
21 delivered to President Donald Trump, U.S. Senate Majority

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