



HR0875

LRB100 20983 MST 36629 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Clean, safe, reliable water service is essential  
3 to the health and well-being of all residents of Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Implemented regulations set in place by the U.S.  
5 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Safe Drinking  
6 Water Act (SOWA) should be followed; and

7 WHEREAS, The events in Flint, Michigan, where thousands of  
8 mostly low-income residents were poisoned by contaminated  
9 water, have drawn attention to the harmful consequences of  
10 underinvestment in and slack oversight of water  
11 infrastructure; and

12 WHEREAS, Lead contamination tends to disproportionately  
13 impact communities of color, with studies having found a  
14 correlation between elevated lead poisoning rates and cities  
15 with large African American populations; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the American Society of Civil  
17 Engineers (ASCE), U.S. water infrastructure across the country  
18 is rapidly deteriorating, with a significant portion far past  
19 its useful life; and

20 WHEREAS, The ASCE, which assigned the nation's drinking

1 water infrastructure a grade of 'D' in its most recent  
2 Infrastructure Report Card, estimates that \$1 trillion in new  
3 investment is needed over the next 25 years to modernize this  
4 infrastructure; and

5 WHEREAS, There are over 52,000 community water systems in  
6 the U.S., 84% of which are owned by municipal or county  
7 governments; and

8 WHEREAS, Many municipalities in Illinois which provide  
9 water service to their residents lack the financial and  
10 technical resources needed to effectively maintain their  
11 systems and meet critical environmental and quality compliance  
12 requirements; and

13 WHEREAS, These interrelated issues, coupled with the  
14 financial struggles facing many local governments across the  
15 state of Illinois, have made it financially impractical for  
16 some municipalities to continue maintaining primary oversight  
17 of their water systems; and

18 WHEREAS, In some instances, the sale of a water system by a  
19 financially distressed municipal government can relieve fiscal  
20 pressure, spur infrastructure investment, and raise water  
21 quality; and

1           WHEREAS, Working with private entities in this matter via  
2 public-private partnerships can also allow municipalities to  
3 benefit from economies of scale, greater access to capital, and  
4 technical expertise; and

5           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois should be fully involved and  
6 consulted in any process that may affect the management of  
7 their water service; and

8           WHEREAS, The provision of water service by a private entity  
9 is subject to strict public utility and environmental  
10 regulation; therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
13 call on policymakers at every level of state government to  
14 pursue policies that prioritize the expeditious replacement of  
15 all remaining lead-based water infrastructure in Illinois; and  
16 be it further

17           RESOLVED, That we declare our support and encourage  
18 municipalities and all other providers of water service to  
19 pursue the full range of options for assuring that water  
20 infrastructure in Illinois is as safe, modern, and as  
21 accessible as possible; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we support plans to provide water in  
2 emergency situations because individuals should have a right to  
3 water even under adverse circumstances and in the face of  
4 natural disasters; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
6 delivered to the President of the United States, the Vice-  
7 President of the United States, all members of the U.S.  
8 Congress, and other federal and state officials as appropriate.