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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, For southwest Illinois to remain a vibrant and  
3 desired place to live and do business, the region's roadways  
4 need to evolve to meet the needs of the area; and

5 WHEREAS, Connecting the major population centers of  
6 Southern Illinois will allow people, goods, and agriculture  
7 commodities to be quickly transported; and

8 WHEREAS, Four counties in southwestern Illinois (Jackson,  
9 Monroe, Perry, and Randolph), numerous municipalities in the  
10 area, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, local  
11 businesses, labor unions, and agricultural organizations have  
12 all voiced support for a four lane, divided highway from  
13 Waterloo to Murphysboro; and

14 WHEREAS, The proposed highway has come to be known as the  
15 Southwest Illinois Connector; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
18 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Southwest Illinois Connector Task  
19 Force is created in order to study the following:

20 (1) the cost, feasibility, and environmental impact of  
21 the connector;

1           (2) the short and long term economic impact to the  
2 region; and

3           (3) all options for funding the connector both public  
4 and private; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Southwest Illinois Connector Task Force  
6 shall consist of the following members:

7           (1) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
8 Senate, who shall serve as Chair;

9           (2) one member appointed by the President of the  
10 Senate;

11           (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House;

12           (4) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
13 House;

14           (5) the Secretary of Transportation, or his or her  
15 designee;

16           (6) a representative of Randolph County appointed by  
17 the Chairman of the Randolph County Board of Commissioners;

18           (7) a representative of Perry County appointed by the  
19 Chairman of the Perry County Board of Commissioners;

20           (8) a representative of Jackson County appointed by the  
21 Chairman of the Jackson County Board;

22           (9) a representative of Monroe County appointed by the  
23 Chairman of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners;

24           (10) a representative of the Illinois Farm Bureau  
25 appointed by its President;

1           (11) a representative of Southern Illinois University  
2           Carbondale appointed by its Chancellor;

3           (12) a representative of the International Union of  
4           Operating Engineers Local 150 appointed by its President;

5           (13) a representative of the Kaskaskia Regional Port  
6           District appointed by its Chairman;

7           (14) a representative of the Illinois Municipal League  
8           appointed by its President; and

9           (15) a representative of the Illinois Realtors  
10          Association appointed by its President; and be it further

11          RESOLVED, That members of the Southwest Illinois Connector  
12          Task Force shall serve with no compensation; the Illinois  
13          Department of Transportation shall make all Department  
14          information available to the Task Force and provide expertise  
15          as needed and available; and be it further

16          RESOLVED, That the Southwest Illinois Connector Task Force  
17          shall meet a minimum of four times and make recommendations to  
18          the General Assembly and the Illinois Department of  
19          Transportation before December 31, 2018.