



SR0353

LRB100 11941 MST 23688 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Access to employment, economic investment,
3 economic mobility, and training opportunities are unequal
4 across Illinois, with minority, low-income, environmental
5 justice, and rural communities having less access to these
6 opportunities; and

7 WHEREAS, Clean energy technologies present new economic
8 opportunities, and the Future Energy Jobs Act creates the
9 Illinois Solar for All program to train residents across
10 Illinois, including persons with criminal records and foster
11 care alumni, for jobs in the clean energy economy; and

12 WHEREAS, The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice
13 and Sentencing Reform seeks to reduce the State's current
14 prison population by 25% by 2025; and

15 WHEREAS, The Commission found that half of the persons with
16 criminal records currently in Illinois prisons will likely
17 re-enter prison within three years of release; and

18 WHEREAS, The Urban Justice Policy Center found in a study
19 of Illinois that only 31% of those released from prison were
20 employed within two months; and

1 WHEREAS, High levels of unemployment correlate directly
2 with violence in Illinois communities and recidivism; and

3 WHEREAS, The families and spouses of persons with criminal
4 records are negatively and economically impacted and deserve
5 good paying jobs; and

6 WHEREAS, Wage gaps continue to exist based on gender and
7 race, with Caucasian women earning 82 cents, African American
8 women earning 65 cents, and Hispanic women earning 58 cents for
9 every dollar earned by Caucasian men in hourly wages; and

10 WHEREAS, Higher recidivism rates lead to higher
11 incarceration rates and costs for Illinois taxpayers; and

12 WHEREAS, Educational and vocational training for persons
13 with criminal records is a gateway to break the cycle of
14 incarceration and is critical to reduce violence and recidivism
15 rates; and

16 WHEREAS, All people desire to live in safe neighborhoods,
17 with access to public land, clean air, drinkable water, good
18 health, and to be empowered through work; and

19 WHEREAS, Addressing environmental justice has been a
20 national priority for over two decades, as first outlined in

1 1994 in Executive Order 12898 on Federal Actions to Address
2 Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income
3 Populations; and

4 WHEREAS, President Obama reaffirmed the necessity of
5 working for a healthy environment for all communities in a
6 Proclamation on the 20th Anniversary of the Executive Order;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Illinois upholds the commitment to ensure that no
9 community disproportionately bears the burden of pollution or
10 environmental degradation through the Illinois Environmental
11 Protection Agency Commission on Environmental Justice; and

12 WHEREAS, Communities of color and
13 economically-disadvantaged communities have historically
14 shouldered the burdens of pollution and its toxic impacts on
15 health, air, water, and land; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human
17 Services Office of Minority Health reports that African
18 American children are four times as likely as non-Hispanic
19 Caucasian children to be admitted to the hospital for an asthma
20 attack and 10 times as likely to die from one; and

21 WHEREAS, Growing the clean energy economy through the jobs

1 and investments set forth in the Future Energy Jobs Act is
2 vital to reducing asthma-causing air pollution and carbon
3 emissions that contribute to climate change; and

4 WHEREAS, Lack of investment in stormwater infrastructure
5 causes basement flooding, sewer backups, and water
6 contamination that disproportionately affect
7 economically-disadvantaged communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Lack of access to fresh, local, healthy food
9 causes poor health outcomes such as obesity, diabetes, and
10 heart disease throughout communities of color and
11 economically-disadvantaged communities; and

12 WHEREAS, Communities of color face barriers of access to
13 green open space and the health and recreational benefits
14 provided therein; and

15 WHEREAS, Economically-challenged communities across
16 Illinois - urban, semi-urban, and rural - together face
17 environmental injustices; and

18 WHEREAS, Illinois has the ability to equip our labor force
19 with skills for the future, protect public health, and be
20 faithful stewards of the planet and our many resources; and

1 WHEREAS, Existing funds from the Renewable Energy
2 Resources Fund allow the implementation of the Solar-for-All
3 Program to meet its statutory goals, creating 2,000 jobs for
4 persons with records and foster care alumni in the clean energy
5 economy by 2030 by offering incentives to companies to hire
6 trainees; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we work together to
9 create an environmental justice agenda that creates clean
10 energy jobs that are accessible to all, addresses gender
11 inequities and income disparities as we move toward a green
12 economy, reduces recidivism rates while curbing climate
13 change, and shapes policy that addresses the adverse and
14 disproportionate impacts of climate change upon communities of
15 color and economically-disadvantaged communities; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That funds in the Renewable Energy Resource Fund,
18 which were paid for by Illinois electric customers, must be
19 preserved and maintained for the Illinois Solar-for-All
20 program as established by the Future Energy Jobs Act, and
21 protected from sweeps, interagency transfers, chargebacks, or
22 other reallocation of those funds away from their statutory
23 purposes.