



SR2073

LRB100 23736 ALS 42783 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is the mission of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to "safeguard environmental quality, consistent with the social and economic needs of the State, so as to protect health, welfare, property and the quality of life"; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois EPA exists within the Executive Branch of State government and carries out the Governor's environmental policy within the framework of State and federal laws; and

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WHEREAS, The Governor appoints the director of the Illinois EPA; and

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WHEREAS, The Citizens of Willowbrook and the surrounding populous areas of Southeast DuPage County are located within close proximity to Sterigenics International, a company which specializes in fumigating medical instruments, pharmaceutical drugs and food to kill bacteria; and

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WHEREAS, Sterigenics International utilizes a gas called ethylene oxide as a main component in the fumigation process; and

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1 WHEREAS, The chemical ethylene oxide has been on the
2 federal list of carcinogens since 1985 and has been linked more
3 conclusively to breast and blood cancer by the United States
4 Environmental Protection Agency in 2016; and

5 WHEREAS, According to published reports, the Citizens of
6 Willowbrook and the surrounding areas of Southeast DuPage
7 County may be exposed to a strikingly-high level of
8 cancer-linked toxins as a result of Sterigenics
9 International's use of ethylene oxide; and

10 WHEREAS, According to published reports by the United
11 States Department of Health and Human Services, the cancer
12 risks from breathing ethylene oxide pollution in Southeast
13 DuPage communities could be up to 6,400 per million, or more
14 than six cases for every 1,000 people; and

15 WHEREAS, In August of 2018, the Illinois EPA declined to
16 provide the Office of the Attorney General with key documents
17 about highly toxic ethylene oxide gas emitted by Sterigenics
18 International; and

19 WHEREAS, It has been published that the Illinois EPA
20 released said documents to the Office of the Attorney General
21 only once pressured to do so by House Republican Leader Jim
22 Durkin and Senator John Curan, who represent the affected area

1 of Southeast DuPage; and

2 WHEREAS, It is the moral and ethical responsibility of the
3 Executive Branch to implement a sound environmental policy and
4 to respond swiftly to emergencies that directly impact the
5 health of the Citizens of Illinois; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we condemn the wholly
8 deficient response by the Governor's Office to the developing
9 health crisis in Southeast DuPage County; moreover, we demand
10 the Governor's Office and the Illinois EPA's prompt and
11 unreserved cooperation with the Illinois Attorney General's
12 Office, the United States Environmental Protection Agency,
13 local governments, and stakeholders affected in order to
14 expeditiously resolve this crisis.